

THE SANDMUTOPIAN

Issue #39
Special Souvenir Issue

GUARDIAN

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**Breath Play -
Why People Want to
Suffocate**

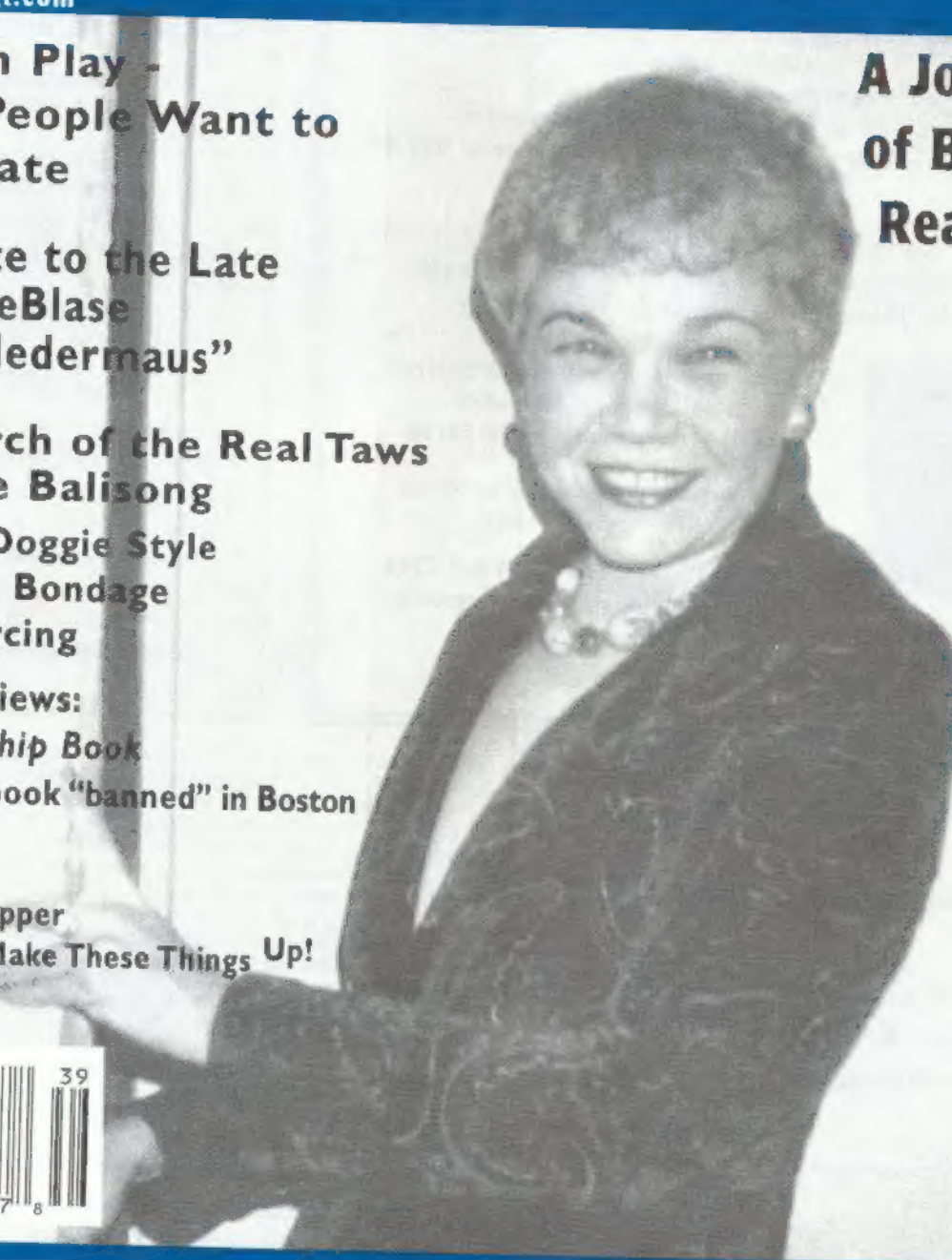
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Tony DeBlase
Our "Fledermaus"**

**In Search of the Real Taws
and the Balisong
Playing Doggie Style
Japanese Bondage
Play Piercing**

**Book Reviews:
The Bullwhip Book
D/s - the book "banned" in Boston**

**Plus ...
S/Mart Shopper
We Can't Make These Things Up!
... and more.**

**A Journal
of BDSM
Realities**



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About the Cover:

Gerrie Blum, also known as Gillian, "closes the door" on *The Guardian*, at least for now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - OUR READERS' FORUM

Send comments, queries and criticisms for possible future use to : Editor, c/o The Utopian Network
POB 1146, New York, NY 10156
or Fax (631) 842-7518 or email: siradam@ix.netcom.com
We cannot print a letter with no name or address. Information will remain confidential

Kudos Keep Kommin'

We continue to receive emails, phone calls and letters, from readers and subscribers, telling us how much you value *The Guardian*, asking us not to stop publishing it ... and some offers of articles. Our sincere thanks to you all.

A Critical Reflection

In response to the article, "Another Critical Look" in issue #34, "Master William" needs to take an aspirin and meditate until he can see his own mind. His comments in constitute extremely intolerant dogma. He sounds like an angry vanilla control freak condemning those who love BDSM. His way or no way!

He assumes there is something wrong with retaining an orgasm or practicing variant forms of abstinence. Obviously, he has never caned his own erection into submission for the sheer joy of not releasing semen externally. After a lifetime of typical orgasms, some people have consciously decided to conserve and recycle the energy. He should study Tantra (older than Western "civilization") and broaden his view on the multi-faceted meaning of orgasmic energy.

With sweeping generalizations he also rejects individuals who suffer from "sexual dysfunction" defined by his simplistic standards. He becomes a self-righteous expert on the issue of "emotional commitment." Some of us prefer to love without neurotic ego attachments, and how does he presume to know what everyone else is feeling during

BDSM sessions? Has he heard about unconditional love?

With his medieval sense of morality he alone has decided that performance, psychodrama, art and "play" cannot be truly erotic, simply because body fluids are not spilled by everyone involved. He also rules out the possibility that BDSM could be a path to healing for those with sexual inhibitions. If you can't get off according to his narrow definition of sexuality and BDSM, the experience has no value and is polluting his archaic world view!

If the macho "Master" had an open mind and less toxic heart, he would realize that as BDSM grows it will take on many new forms. The only thing we can be certain of in this world is change itself, and history clearly reveals the horrors of intolerance. Top's disease is never a pretty picture and can limit the future of enlightened BDSM. Perhaps he is incapable of adapting to the new directions?

John,
MT

From Our Colleague

I was reading through issue #37 of *The Guardian* and noted the statement that **Checkmate** will shut down at the end of the year.

This is not true. We will discontinue the print version but the magazine will continue quarterly in an electronic format *without interruption*. ... It appears from your piece that you are also contemplating the shift from print to electronics. Good luck. We are all going to need it as we try to find our way through the post-print world.

Regards,
Harold Cox, Editor

Leather Pride and Its Flag

I was fortunate to have first met Tony DeBlase at Leather University in Ft. Lauderdale. Tony was a great man; he will be missed. Our Leather Community is much the better for having Tony as one of its most august members. Tony made many contributions to Leather; the best know is the Leather Pride Flag.

I had hoped to talk with him about a Pledge of Alliance to the Leather Pride Flag at this year's Leather University ... sadly that conversation will never take place.

In memorial to him and to further the respect due the Leather Pride Flag and to continue Tony's work of community building, I propose that a pledge of allegiance be written to our banner of pride, love, hope and unity. What follows is my suggestion; I welcome improvements.

I pledge alliance to the Flag of Leather Pride and to the Union of Leather People for which it stands, with safety, sanity and consent for all.

Tony's gift of the Leather Pride Flag is an icon that symbolizes our community; through community we will gain self-acceptance and tolerance by others. Now it is up to us to carry Tony's work forward. We have the symbol, now let's add the words that tell how much we love our lifestyle, our Leather Pride Standard and ourselves.

Sincerely and in Leather Pride,

Tim Galdencio
FL

More Letters on pg 29

From the Editor



Since this will be our last issue, at least for a while, we tried to cram as much as we could into this magazine, and added sixteen pages to do it!

To our friends, subscribers and readers who have contributed to our success, thank you. If we left anything or anyone out, we apologize. We tried too to tie up some loose ends ... and delayed publication as long as we dared. We will continue to accept updates, news and letters to the editor and will be setting aside some space on our web site for *Guardian* matters. (www.aswgt.com) We are *not* "going away"!

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of **Tony DeBlase** in July ... and yet were glad in a way that he had not known of our decision to suspend publication of his "special project." See the tribute to him on pg 12 from his life partner.

Breath control and breath play have been a subject of interest as well as controversy for years, especially in the "organized community." Editor Mitch Kessler went on a hunt for information, which turned out to be more of a rabbit chase but you will find some useful material starting on page six. The mandatory Safety Warnings are in the back of the book, on page 60.

The **CB 2000** is a new and interesting device. It is made by a couple in the west and the finishing and quality of workmanship are exemplary. In addition to the article on pg 30, you will find more photos on their web: www.CB2000.com

Stephen has really *done* the play piercings on Michelle that he describes on pg 24. In fact,

she has been known to wear a pendant with no visible means of support because it has been sewn into the skin on her chest! Perhaps we can persuade him to take a photo the next time he decorates her so we can show it to you on our site.

Michael Masterson, as you recall, is from Australia and the owner of a popular leather boutique in Melbourne. He enjoys playing doggie games and suggests some sites that cater to this activity. See his article on pg 56.

In issue #29 we did an extensive article on the "Divine Marquis" ... de Sade. By the way, the new movie, "Quills" has gotten some good reviews, although BDSMers may take issue with a few of the "facts." You might want to refresh your memory with #29 before you see the film. We could not go on hiatus without including something about von **Sacher Masoch**! See the centerfold on pg 34-35.

The speech by **Joseph Bean**, excerpted on pg 54 is rather unsettling! When someone who has been such a visible figure in the leather community and representing us to the mainstream takes such a valedictory look at the "leather nation" one has to wonder if Leather has a future at all. Do we have to reinvent ourselves every decade? Will the "senior faculty" really step aside and let the juniors take the helm? Were the last 15 years just a waste?

Couple that with the comments in IMHO by "Any" (pronounced Aynee) who is a voice of the future and it becomes even more distressing!

Stay tuned.

Mitch ... and Jennie

DEADLINES: There aren't any!

This is the last issue this year. *The Guardian* as you have known it is going "on hiatus" while we decide what the future of the magazine will be ... electronic? annual hardcopy? something else?

If we receive interesting and well-written manuscripts ... and illustrations to go with them — we may be able to do an annual or semi-annual hardcopy *Guardian*. If we have articles, letters or "snippets" for an online magazine, we can consider doing that.

Or, we can just continue to sell our back issues until they are gone ... because after all, the information in them is useful, timeless and well-written.

The Appeal of Breath Control Why People Want to Suffocate

by Mitch Kessler

While there are as many reasons for people wanting or doing whatever it is that they want to do there are some broad themes that recur especially in unconventional sexual activities. Some people do in fact derive sensual pleasure from experiences that others experience as pain. A greater number are able to process stimuli reinterpreting what is "painful" to what is "desirable"... if not exactly pleasurable — especially when the ability to do so wins rewards and approval from others, enhances self esteem or makes other pleasures possible at another time.

One Neo-Freudian View

One very clever hypothesis has been proposed for the appeal of *Asphyxaphilia* in general that sheds light on this form of aggressive behavior. It speculates that, "while breast-feeding, a baby may experience partial asphyxia" and that "certain gastric and urethral reflexes may, in males, produce erections. Thus a very early association between the pleasure involved with feeding, erection, and asphyxia is formed. Later, when breast-feeding stops, the association between asphyxia and erections may persist." Considering the observation of the erotic interchangeability of breasts and buttocks noted by Desmond Morris among others, this observation might be thought of as providing a definitive explanation of the appeal of both "Face Sitting" and low cut evening gowns — were it not for the author's view of the breast-feeding mother as the "smother mother." This suggests that his theory may owe as much to neo-Freudian psychoanalytic doctrine and misogynist sexual politics as it does to rigorous appli-

cation of Scientific Method to observed phenomena.

But, for the Rest of Us ...

In many cases, and *Asphyxaphilia* is one of them, the sensations include some discomfort, but also include distinctly pleasurable sensations as well. When techniques involving sub-lethal controlled garroting or manual strangulation are practiced, the risk increases and can even become life threatening. Controlled garroting involves the use of a ligature; a wire, rope or bandage tightened around the neck. This compresses the airway (trachea) and the major blood vessels which supply the brain with blood, oxygen, and nutrients. When all goes well ... and it usually does ... the effect is to induce a semi-hallucinatory, lucid state — lasting a few seconds.

Social Rewards

While breath control is not everyone's idea of a good time (or of a good idea), from a *BDSMer's* point of view, their appeal should not be incomprehensible. Most of the things we do include demonstrations of Trust, Trustworthiness, Courage, Devotion and Resolution — among other personal strengths and virtues. For example, in a flogging or torture scene, the Top demonstrates Resolution and Trustworthiness by administering no *more* punishment than the Bottom can endure, and no *less* than the Bottom desires. The Bottom demonstrates Courage and Devotion by enduring what the Top chooses to inflict, while demonstrating Trust by believing that the ordeal will not exceed his or her absolute

limits. A Master often claims authority over his Slaves' most basic and intimate physical processes: Eating, sleeping, sex, bathroom functions, etc. are allowed *only* when, and how, Master orders.

Personal Symbolism

The reason for the practice of Asphyxaphilia is not unlike the reasons people want to be spanked, flogged, or have uncustomary objects inserted into their body orifices. It's difficult, it's



different, and they like it! The same might be said of marathon running or platform diving.

But consensual BDSM play involving "breath control" has gotten a lot of undeservedly bad press, which equates *all* breath play with the sub-suicidal adolescent practice of

"hanging by the neck until" ... orgasm ... or death — whichever comes first. As late as August, 2000 the *Bay Area Reporter's* editor felt it wasn't unreasonable to publish a letter condemning the award of the **Mr. Northern California Drummer** title to a particular contestant because he had said "breath control" was one of his sexual turn-ons.

Western civilization has a rich and complex set of reactions to Sex, Death, Power, Cruelty and Mercy, Law and Love. It has, in turn, linked those constructs to its ideas about, "Life and How to Live It." It has also devised an equally rich repertory of interrelated and cross-linked symbols and allegories, laws, customs and taboos, for coping with these forces and with the feelings they evoke. The more one grants some validity to what people have learned and passed on about systems of mythology, literature, unconscious and deliberate symbolism, art psychology, and so forth, — the less bizarre and incomprehensible "This Sado-Masochistic Thing of Ours" becomes.

Pursuing this idea just a little further: as symbols, The Cross and the Gallows are both antithetical and complementary to each other — holy transcendence, etc. on one hand, the wages

... where sex is involved, both the probability and severity of the danger become greatly exaggerated.

.....
of sin, etc. on the other ... except when public executions were daily entertainment for the masses. Sympathetic felons might be admired and spoken about for weeks in recognition of their composure before hanging — and the vigor of their struggles during it. So a bad and shameful death became a good and admirable one. More strangely, this was believed by everyone involved in the process — including the victim!

Given that this is the case for normative and mainstream Westerners, it should not come as a surprise that creative and individual rituals and symbolic systems would contain elements of mainstream images, modified and recombined to meet personal needs — or understandings of the universe. While we can usefully focus on the learned behavior and chemical reward elements of sexuality, it is important not to forget that shaping and governing our eroticism, there is an ancient collection of symbols and attitudes which we inherit, relate to — and sometimes rebel against.

Nonetheless, when unconventional sexualities are being discussed, someone will always introduce the question ... "But I just don't see why anyone would do something so ..." in the case of Breath Play — "dangerous." **When custom-breaking sex is involved, even folks who break customs themselves can become quite stubborn, literal-minded, judgmental and immune to new information.** Most specifically, where sex is involved, both the probability and severity of the danger become greatly exaggerated.

It's disturbing in this context, because most commonly, breath play consists of very low risk activities. It may consist of ordering someone to hold his or her breath until told they're allowed to breathe again. It may consist of placing the hand over the nose and mouth of the "victim" until he or she begins to struggle, or until the "aggressor" relents. More advanced, and more "risky" scenes may *simulate* torture by suffocation, and may employ elaborate dramatic enactment with carefully crafted script, props and ...

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Breath Play

continued from pg 7

incidentally, — safety precautions. Dizziness, rapid breathing (panting), and momentary “black out” are common results. Full loss of consciousness is as rare as it is potentially dangerous. A very small number of edge players called “Gas-pers” (the bottoms) and “Chokers” (their tops) add strangulation and hanging to their repertory, taking these practices to the limits of sensation and survivability.

However, the popular wisdom which asserts that, “there are many, well-documented cases” of sudden death among these edge players during breath play with a partner does not stand up to close scrutiny.



What little validity this notion enjoys, depends in large measure on the believer taking a very lenient view of what “many” and “well documented” mean. It also calls for a fixed belief in the “touchless death phenomenon,” said to be common regarding pet birds (“all I

did was pick it up”), estranged lovers (“I barely touched her and the next thing I knew she wasn’t moving”), and African-Americans in police custody (“The whole station will swear that he was breathing when we put him in the cell.”). Most importantly, it calls for a piece of intellectual leg-erdemain by which the distinction between breath control play and, “taking a rope and hanging someone” can be made to disappear.

With the idea that erotic flirtations with the gallows occupy a category all their own, to be dealt with later, here are some common breath play scenarios:

Holding Your Own

After an extended period of verbal hazing, West Point style, the pretend “Upper Classman” gives the order: “Brace!” and the “Plebe” assumes the exaggerated “at attention” position. After some moments, the order is amended: “Don’t

even *breathe!*” she commands. Instantly “The Maggot” complies. Within moments her rigidly composed features begin to show the signs of increased stress. Eyes widen, nostrils flair. After a minute or two her uniformed legs begin to tremble. “At ease!” commands the Upper Classman ... or the exercise is continued until the Plebe’s knees buckle — and the Upper Classman demands, “Give me ten pushups!” Breathless, the Cadet obeys, happy to display her obedience, strength and resolution — basking in her lover’s pride and approval.

Holding the Other Guy’s

There are two men in a JO (safe-sex/masturbation) Club. Their eyes meet. One drops his eyes briefly, the other makes the approach. Pinching his new friend’s hardening nipple with one hand, he covers the mouth and nose with the other. Both men lock widening eyes with nostrils flaring. The “victim” places one hand behind his prospective partner’s neck. “Do you trust me?” the “torturer” asks. “Yes,” nods the victim tapping one steel-toed boot against the aggressor’s kneecap. Eyes widen and nostrils flair further on both sides. Soon there is an unconscious trembling in the legs of the victim and the obstructing hand is removed. Connection has been made.

Torture Scenes

Breath control torture, which includes near-drowning and dry suffocation techniques, offers the same advantages to recreational enactors as it does to professional human rights violators. They produce a maximum of terror and physical suffering while minimizing both tell-tale marking and the possibility that the victim will escape into unconsciousness or death. The difference between an erotic ordeal and an encounter with State Terrorism is the victim’s well-founded belief that the torturer will not carry on to a fatal conclusion, and that cooperation (or use of a safe-word) will, *without fail*, end the torment without endangering family, friends, or “The Cause.” While reports by Amnesty International attest to the relative safety of the “dry submarine” torture and a number of nasty tricks involving wet handkerchiefs, modified gas masks and diving helmets — “relative” is the key word.

Experiments conducted by the Australian National Lifeguard Service established, among

other useful discoveries, that people who have experienced full water-in-the-lungs drowning under what they believe to be safe and controlled conditions, become desensitized to *both* the panic and the physical sensations involved. As a result they can tolerate more, struggle less and survive longer. In the context of "drown proofing" rescue workers, desensitization is good. In the context of BDSM play, it can promote over-confidence and lead to the temptation to escalate the severity and duration of scenes. This *increases* the probability of a mishap, and *reduces* the chances of coming out of the experience unharmed.

Rebreathing

This is yet another form of voluntary suffocation. It differs slightly from the dry submarine methods in that rather than blocking the passage of air in and out of the lungs ... respiration continues, but oxygen deprivation and carbon dioxide intoxication (poisoning) are promoted by breathing the same volume of air repeatedly. Most often, and most dangerously, this is a solo practice, effected by putting the head into thin plastic such as dry cleaners use to cover garments.

The larger and less flexible the bag, the less uncomfortable the process ... and the less likely the victim is to panic. Conversely, the extra-thin membrane of the garment bag clings to the face due to static electricity, and can be drawn into the mouth and nostrils unexpectedly. What is surprising is that there is extensive evidence that devotees of this practice "get away with it" as often, and for as long as they seem to do.

Queening ... or Face Sitting

A limber, accomplished and somewhat fleshy Do-er can use the butt-crack to suffocate the Do-ee. However the vulva are better placed and more suitably designed for the purpose. Whole articles have been devoted to the complex and reciprocal pleasures of face sitting. (see *Guardian Issue #20*) In addition to offering a way of doing cunnilingus that puts the woman "being done" in control, ... not only of the do-er's access to the Treasured

While the Top "obviously" seems to be in control, it is more often the Bottom who fantasizes and initiates this practice

.....
Center of Pleasure, but of access to breath itself ... it also provides the Bottom with a concentrated environment which mingles the scent and taste of their partner with their own rebreathed, oxygen-poor air — while, in addition, providing them with ongoing reassurance of their (ostensibly) passive and submissive role. For maximum

effect, the Top will try to grasp her partner's nose between her labia, periodically shifting position to cut off air to the mouth as well. In addition to whatever Queenly head trips she may enjoy, her pleasure comes from converting her Bottom's lips and nostrils into a sort of pneumatically powered vibrator, while enjoying the repeated thrashing and struggles produced by suffocation. While the Top "obviously" seems to be in control, it is more often the Bottom who fantasizes and initiates this



practice. Whether the Top actually enjoys sitting up straight and shifting around ... and remaining aware of the Bottom's well-being while being tongued from below, is an entirely separate issue. This is one of the few asphyxia techniques that accommodates blatant "Topping from the Bottom." If The Queen gets her pleasure in this exercise by fantasizing that she is a French Horn or some other brass instrument ... whose business is it, anyway?

While to this author's knowledge there have been no reported cases of fatal asphyxia as a result of Face Sitting, as such, this practice is also one of the few techniques that actively invites the Top to endanger the Bottom by "getting carried away" with her own pleasure. A "Chicken Little" who is given to morbid speculations about sexual perils, might speculate that those prostitution-related cases in which unmarked bodies of older men are found inexplicably dead in motel rooms, might well be attributed to this practice — rather

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Breath Play

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than to simple physical or sexual over exertion. With no evidence of foul play or negligence, and no blameworthy suspect readily available, these cases are most commonly attributed to "heart failure" and closed quickly — in consideration of the surviving family's feelings.

Face Sitting Queens, especially those given to prolonged orgasms, would do well to reserve one small corner of their minds for what is going on with the Bottom ... be ready to "rise and release" quickly if their struggles suddenly intensify and then stop ... provide for a non-verbal "release signal" — and use intoxicants sparingly, if at all. For safety's sake, as is often the case, *self-control* needs to be part of the pleasure of controlling.

Strangling and Garrotage:

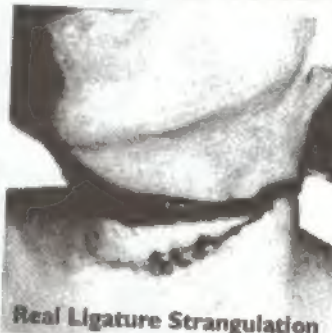
Used sexually and consensually, often in combination with direct genital stimulation, strangling with hands or garroting with a ligature give some people enhanced sexual pleasure. This includes reports of intensified orgasms, and for some men — larger, harder, stronger erections and more copious ejaculations as well.

One author suggests that the verbal command, "Come now or I'll kill you!" uttered in the heat of a strangulation scene can produce instant, powerful, physical and psychic release. By the same token, a warning, "Come now and I'll strangle you!" when reinforced by firm and convincing neck pressure, *may* delay a hasty ejaculation for a while. Of course, men being what they are, each of these cues can in some individuals precipitate exactly the opposite of the effect called for.

Before the 1970's only a few, sophisticated "rakes and libertines," saw the value of prolonging intercourse in order to prolong their own pleasure — or knew very much about pleasuring a woman. In the 19th century, "marital pleasure" was something of an oxymoron. Long-lasting men were a nuisance to most of the women they encountered. Wives in most places and classes, expected little, closed their eyes and waited for the man to finish his business — and concealed such pleasure as they may have felt. For commer-

cial pleasure-women, great endurance in a man meant more (highly disagreeable) work, for the same meager pay. A little neck pressure at the right moment could raise a whore's productivity considerably ... not to mention affording her the opportunity to express some of what she felt about her client — usually without losing his business.

After the publication and widespread acceptance of Masters and Johnson's *Human Sexual Disfunction*, sexual expectations began to change. Freud had revealed that some women experience sexual pleasure ... "normally" by vaginal penetration — or "neurotically" through clitoral stimulation. Now it was generally known that there were men whose intercourse lasted more than a minute or two, and that there were women who wanted that — a lot! More compelling, as Freud had equated clitoral fixation as



Real Ligature Strangulation

a dysfunction ... which translates as "a disease" to the person so diagnosed ... Masters and Johnson identified the premature ejaculator as a person in need of therapy ... as well as being an inferior lay — and on both accounts, "less of a man" than he should be.

This created a powerful social pressure for young men to master control of their ejaculations to the greatest degree possible. After a decade or so of practice some men became so conditioned to continence that they began to recreate the Victorian ideal of female sexuality for themselves — they stopped coming. However, some found that a convincing, explicit communication that their orgasm was "permitted" and even "desired" was needed to overcome this new, though less stigmatized, sexual dysfunction.

Whether it is the explicit permission that is the trigger, or it is the "or I'll Kill You," part ... or both together, that gets people (usually men) off, is probably a highly individual matter. A death threat, play-acted or not, is a powerful psychic force — especially when reinforced with direct sensory evidence that the threat could, just possibly be carried out, "*this time*." The victim's rational mind is 99.9% certain that it never would be; the body tells a different story — the result is heightened excitement. (*One of the beauties of SM is that it makes sex so damn complicated, doesn't it?*)

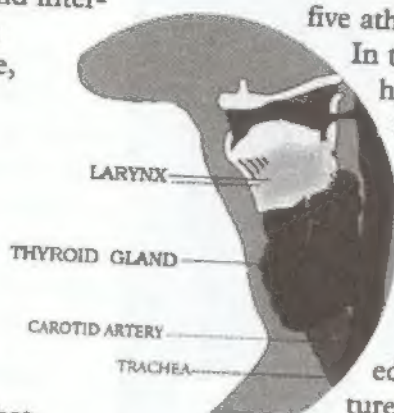
Strangulation

Strangling is, of course, the manual compression of the human neck. It can be a quick and certain way to subdue a human being without using a weapon and it can also be a shockingly easy way to kill someone accidentally. Paradoxically, it is also a surprisingly tiring and difficult way to kill a person on purpose.

There are two vulnerable targets: the airway and the carotid arteries. Compressing the arteries cuts off the flow of blood to the brain, while initiating a fascinatingly complex and interactive set of reactions involving blood chemistry, blood pressure, heart rhythm and more. In a sexual context, it appears that these changes, as well as the simple euphoric effects of anoxia, produce the perceived effect.

The pressure points are the "pulse points" found under the "point of the jaw" on each side. Forensic experts estimate that only five pounds of pressure is required to compress these arteries sufficiently to produce unconsciousness in less than a minute. After four minutes, serious brain damage is thought to be in process, and after 15 minutes the hope for spontaneous resuscitation "without deficits" becomes extremely remote. Homicide investigators choose to believe that two minutes is the dividing line between sub-lethal assault and murderous intent, just as they regard visible bruising as a sign that their victim died by violence rather than by accident.

Since the pleasurable effects of all this essentially end when the subject becomes unconscious ... and because the "rush" of returning blood flow may be as pleasurable as the loss of it ... it is probably good sensual as well as safety practice to release carotid pressure at the first instant the subject exhibits signs of "going under." Muscle weakness is one of these signs ... and, remembering that in this practice the Top literally has the Bottom's life in his or her hands ... a useful practice is to allow the subject to grasp some part of the strangler's body ... usually the wrist ... **hard!** When that grip slackens, so does the grip on the throat.



... come to think of it, literature of the last century *did* attribute loss of sight to masturbation alone.

.....

In theory, brief carotid pressure alone could trigger an irreversible cascade of effects resulting in accidental death. Practically speaking, however, judo students and competitors by the tens of thousands have choked each other into submission for more than a hundred years, but as few as five athletes, worldwide, have died in that time.

In the first half of the 20th century, stage hypnotists used a carotid pressure technique to "prove" their ability to "put people under" ... thereby creating "heightened suggestibility" in their subjects and increased credulity in their audiences — apparently without serious accident.

But while on the topic of "unintended consequences" of a disagreeable nature, there is one that probably deserves mention here. Bloodshot eyes are a tell-tale sign of *both* suffocation and strangulation, although the increase in blood pressure which causes the effect comes at different points in the progress of each process. Simply: bloodshot eyes on a living person could mean anything from allergy to hangover ... in a dead person the symptom strongly suggests asphyxiation. What is not clear, to this author at least, is whether the broken blood vessels in the white of the eye are exactly the same whether caused by irritation or by strangulation. No literature reports blindness or vision deficits as the result of repeated asphyxia experiences, although, come to think of it, literature of the last century did attribute loss of sight to masturbation alone. Still, this effect is worth being aware of, if only for cosmetic reasons, and to avoid the chance that family or friends might believe that the erotic asphyxiation devotee is an illegal drug user.

It's a Cop Thing

The second vulnerable point on the human neck is the airway. Forensic experts believe that 30 lbs of pressure is necessary to compress this passage to produce significant anoxia. They also

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Anthony F. "Tony" DeBlase 1942-2000 aka Fledermaus

by Andrew V. Charles.



his remembrances of Tony and their life together.

My comments, well ...

It was a strange situation of almost *instant* rapport, starting with rather intense S/M play, but never role-playing. In many ways, some of the things we did were groundbreaking, especially in the early years with Chicago **Hellfire** and **Inferno**.

[DeBlase was an early member of the Hellfire club and a major developer of Inferno, their annual encampment. He was the founder of the Contest and Demo Schedule at Inferno and contributed much to its success through the years.]

We were always equal partners and highly independent individuals, which really is what made the relationship work for so many years.

[Tony and Andrew were together for 24 years — first in Chicago, then San Francisco, and finally Portland.] Most of all, he was an amazingly intelligent and many-faceted person, with a wide range of interests, some of which we shared, but all of which were complementary.

Known to many in the S/M scene as **Fledermaus**, Tony held a doctorate and was notable in his field of **Mammology**. He chose that *nom de scene* because he was a respected authority in his specialty of chriptomology, bats.



On July 21, 2000, the leather/BDSM/fetish communities were saddened by the death of **Anthony F. DeBlase** in Portland, Oregon, after a long illness. Known to *Guardian* readers as **Fledermaus**, and as the founder of our magazine in 1988 as **The SandmUtopia Guardian** (along with his long-time partner, Andrew V. Charles) they had also been publishers of **DungeonMaster** and **Drummer** magazines.

The Guardian asked Andrew Charles for

The SandMUTopian Guardian Issue #39

[Fledermaus, the "flying mouse," ... or bat]. He wrote many scholarly articles in the field and, just prior to his death, had completed the third edition of his textbook.

Although the gay/leather SM community knows him as having been very instrumental, along with Chuck Renslow, in developing the **Leather Archives and Museum**, one of his first professional activities was the development of a living history/colonial museum, **Connor Prairie** in his home state of Indiana.

[DeBlase also created and promoted the now famous **Leather Pride Flag** and presented his idea at the 1989 **International Mr. Leather** contest.]

Other interests and talents

He was a wonderful and imaginative cook, and friends always commented that I had the best "personal chef" imaginable (I am a very skilled cook as well). He was extremely involved and important in the local, and international food world, notable not only for his culinary skills, but organizational skills, which were utilized for the planning of many events. He was recently beginning to do a fair amount of writing for food magazines, such as *Savour* and *Food and Wine*.

We shared a love for travel, fine food and dining, art and antiques, classical ballet and modern dance, opera, and theatre. Tony especially liked musicals. We enjoyed entertaining and were well-known hosts, including dinners and such for AIDS-related fund raising.

Tony had a wonderful dry, understated, often ascerbic sense of humor. He was the best, most loyal, understanding, accepting, loving friend and partner one could ever have hoped to have.

Tony DeBlase was born in South Bend, Indiana, April 3, 1942. He is survived by his mother, Ida, and two sisters, Stephanie DeBlase and Mary DeBlase Hurst, all of South Bend. A private memorial was held in Portland shortly after his

death on July 21st. Plans are now underway for a major memorial and celebration of his life during International Mr. Leather 2001 in Chicago during the Memorial Day Weekend.

Long-time friend and colleague, Joseph W. Bean had this to say in the Leather Archives and Museum newsletter:

DeBlase the teacher and leather leader, the editor and editorialist, the writer and publisher; Fledermaus the story-teller; and Dr. DeBlase the brilliant gourmet cook, scientist and textbook writer will all be long and fondly remembered. But it is Tony, the loyal friend and constant counselor of so many leathersmen and leatherwomen who will most profoundly missed by the hundreds ... or thousands ... who had come to depend on him for advice, instruction and comfort. ♦



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Writing A Successful Personal Ad



by Nikki ^cat^

So, you're seeking a Mistress/Master/dominant or a slave/submissive? Although people write personal ads every day, the vast majority do not receive responses - or get undesirable ones - leaving the seeker greatly disappointed. This is not specific to BDSM but I admit that some of the most atrociously written ISO (In Search Of) ads I've ever seen fall into this category.

Here are a few pointers that will go far toward writing that successful personal advertisement:

Define What You Want.

Sounds simple and obvious but a good many people miss it. Sit down and write or type out what you would consider your ideal partner to be, whether you're seeking a long term relationship or a friendly encounter. Yes, write it *all* out. This is a first draft to help you learn and focus on your priorities. Contrary to seemingly popular belief, especially on the Internet, a submissive does have the right to choose!

So, What Do You Want?

Love, laughter, cuddles, long walks, intimate dinners at home or on the town? How about compatibility with your political, religious or child rearing views, and/or tastes in food and beverage (are you a vegetarian)? What kind of activities do you enjoy greatly that you'd want/need to share with your partner? Mountain biking, paragliding, swimming, dancing, walking, working out, favorite TV shows, types of movies, or even volunteer activities are just a few you might want to consider.

What does this have to do with writing a BDSM personal ad? A lot! Too many people tend to focus on the desire to dominate or be dominated and don't consider that it would also be

nice to have some common ground when the play has stopped. If you're seeking a life-mate, compatibility is even more important.

Are You Champing at the Bit?

Rein yourself in! Now you have to consider your physical, mental and emotional limits. There are BDSM checklists available on the Web. I urge you to check out the one maintained by Tammad Rimilia [<http://ms.ha.md.us/~tammad/>]. James Ligate has a great reference guide at The Mining

Company [<http://bdsm.miningco.com/library/nlexicon.htm>]. If you have java script enabled, type in the word "all" for the entire list. For other links to definitions, check out:

<http://bdsm.miningco.com/library/weekly/aa070797.htm>

There are many places... on the Internet to place your ad and reach a great number of people

If you've never looked at lists of activities, you may feel overwhelmed. Don't! They're simply words to describe a myriad of inclinations, desires and fetishes. But if you have a hard limit ("No, won't go there, do that, unh-uh *no way*") on, say, humiliation, you're not likely to be very compatible with a partner who has placed that in his or her top ten list of favorites. Whether you're dominant, submissive or any combination thereof, it's very important not to let yourself be led by your desire to find a partner so much that you do emotional damage to yourself or to them.

Writing and Placing Your Ad

It's time to look over the mass of details you've written down and put it into a personal ad. I suggest you write several different ads, starting with a long one and whittling it down until you're fairly satisfied with the content.

There are many places accessible on the Internet to place your ad and reach a great number of people with a wordier ISO. If you don't have access, look in your phone book for a "cyber



cafe" where you can rent time. BDSM magazines — available in adult bookstores or boutiques — and local underground or alternative lifestyle newspapers are also places to post an ad, limited to the number of words you can afford. But, limited words means less information.

Do...

Remember the person you're seeking to attract is so much more than a dominant or submissive ... but a person with feelings, not an object.

Read your ad or your reply to a friend or at least aloud to yourself. Does it look or sound poorly phrased? Have you used punctuation ... periods, commas, etc? Remember that what you write is all anyone has to make an initial opinion of you, whether you're placing a listing or responding to one.

Use decent grammar and proper English. I don't mean formal, but all lowercase letters make it much more difficult to read a post. Capitalize the first letter of a sentence and capitalize your personal references (I, not i).

If you're a dominant, especially male, being stuffy and/or demanding in your post will often put off the very submissives with whom you wish to communicate. If you're submissive, cap those I's and type in first person! Regardless of whether you're dominant or submissive, you're a human being first (at least I hope you are!). Ads that tell more about the *person* and aren't exclusively BDSM are much more likely to get a response from the type of person you'd like to get to know.

Inject some of your own personality and, if possible, humor, into your ad.

Run your words through a spell checker — it's not only courteous but first impressions are *very* important.

Appear confident and positive with your words. Whining, begging, sarcasm or using phrases like "I really don't need to write an ad but..." or "You *will* respond!" — tend to put people off.

Be sure to state where you are geographically. You'd be surprised at how many people neglect this very important piece of information. Just giving a state or country may not be enough; California and Texas, for example, cover a wide area.

Put your first name in the ad. ... Unless your first name is extremely unusual, there's every good reason to include it.

Remember to give some kind of contact information, whether it be an email address, a Post Office box or voicemail. Yes, there are those who forget this, too!

Put your first name in the ad. When I respond, I often write, "Hello (name)" and if all I have is "footlicker" to fill in there, I feel silly. I'd much rather be able to address a person. Unless your first name is extremely unusual, there's every good reason to include it.

Run your ad in as many appropriate places as you can. Placing an ad for a slave in your local daily newspaper is *not* a good idea! And they probably won't accept it.

And the Don'ts ...

Don't use shortcuts and abbreviations in your writing ... e.g. "ur" instead of "you are". If you have been on the Internet you've seen it often enough. Quite honestly, it shows laziness in an advertisement for yourself.

Don't use lower-case references, like typing i, not I. It could be a total turnoff to a potential partner and many take it as a form of lazy typing or intentionally trying to bottom to someone.

Don't upper-case references to a dominant, especially not to yourself. Many consider this pompous and I know a number of intelligent submissives who wouldn't look twice at such an ad.

Don't assume a demanding attitude in your ad. When you don't even know who it's reaching, it comes across as ridiculous. You may be Old Guard Leather or consider yourself a "Master" or "Mistress" but you are not that to *every* person who reads your words. Be considerate.

The flip side of being demanding is a submissive referring to yourself in the third person. Keep in mind that your ideal partner may not find such speech attractive and could therefore bypass your ad.

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continued from pg 15

Some Lagnappe ("a little bit extra")

No matter how well-written your personal ad may be, there will always be responses that are either totally inappropriate, irrelevant or downright insulting. Don't let yourself get discouraged by the clueless. The more of **you** that you put in, the fewer of these responses you will receive.

Reply to **every** response your personal ad generates, even the moronic ones. It's the polite thing to do. If you're using email, create a standard form or two. Be polite but firm in your rejections. If one of the clueless types keeps writing, delete them beyond that first reply. It may seem a waste of time to you to reply to each response, but look at it from the sender's point of view. They don't know if you've gotten it, if their response was lost in the mail, or any number of other things.

Be patient. Once you've found several homes for your ISO, continue on with your life; don't sit around waiting for a response. But don't just place your personal and forget about it! Search listings and read the ads that others have placed. If something about someone's words appeals to you, contact them. Don't be afraid or ill at ease to be the one to write or call first. I've made several friends this way, even though the person didn't work out (often because of location) as relationship material.

Following all of these suggestions is no guarantee that your soulmate will see your words and be touched by them but it does increase your chances to present yourself favorably. ♦

*(Nikki ^cat^ (aka Miss Nikki) is a formerly submissive, lifestyle and professional dominatrix in New Orleans. She created and maintains ^cat^'s House and Dungeon [<http://www.prrcat.com>]. Miss Nikki's Chambers and Mistress Cat's Chamber of Domination [<http://chamber.prrcat.com>], and manages a moderated email list, *Dungeon-ISO*, for those seeking partners and friends in the BDSM lifestyle. She is also the author of several *Guardian* articles)*

Breath Play

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estimate that this is the pressure which can be expected to cause serious damage and highly probable death. (This is a standard guideline in investigation of possible homicides. If the windpipe is crushed, or if there is visible bruising, the intent can be assumed to be probably murderous. If these signs are not present, the possibility of negligent or reckless homicide can be entertained.) "It's a Cop thing." So far as "we" are concerned, direct, concentrated pressure on the "windpipe" and the "Adam's apple" can be considered as dangerous as it is unnecessary.

It's a Mugger Thing

In garrotage, a piece of rope or cloth is used to encircle the neck, usually from behind. This compresses both the carotid arteries *and* the windpipe and allows the strangler to choose among the powerful arm and chest muscles to maintain the pressure, rather than rely on the grip of the fingers alone. Both the Imperial Romans and the modern Spanish considered this a more merciful way of executing prisoners than hanging, stabbing or even decapitation.

English robbers from medieval times to the early 20th century, however, found that a bulky garotte made of cloth or a thick piece of rope was a safer and more effective way of subduing their victims than hitting them on the head, or threatening them with edged weapons. The Parliament agreed, since "garroting" was specifically mentioned in the penal law ... where it was treated more leniently than "Armed Robbery" or "Attempted Murder." The practice has fallen under official disfavor since the mid 1970s ... and has been largely replaced by the use of injectable drugs. Prior to that, orderlies in mental hospitals commonly carried and used a large terry cloth hand towel as a means of subduing agitated patients with minimum damage to all concerned.

It's a Whore Thing

"Scarfig" is one term for sexual garrotage, which seems to have originated in upper-class English brothels in the mid 18th century. The term refers to the scarf, or other piece of cloth,



used to simultaneously compress both the airway and the carotid arteries. The practice originated as a way of "finishing a man off" as quickly as possible. Eventually, the men who actively enjoyed and requested the sensations developed a folklore of anoxic eroticism that might dispense with the intercourse part entirely. Not only was it in the prostitutes' interests to encourage this ... reduction of the number of possible exposures to STDs benefited both the clients and their wives as well.

If the word "safe" can be used in this context, choking with a scarf is safer than using rope or cord — and much safer than using rope with any form of noose or knot tied in it. As with the robber, the hospital orderly, and the whore, the measure of safety comes partially from the instrument itself, and partially from the practiced technique by which it is used. The wide soft cloth spreads the pressure evenly, preventing damage to the windpipe. Remembering that for many people, placing anything around the neck, even a loose leather collar, can produce intense excitement and (in men) visible arousal, with no constriction at all. A skilled Scarfer, (or garroter) may also refrain from completely shutting down the airway and the bloodflow, using only enough pressure to obtain the desired degree of submission and/or arousal.

Gaspers and Chokers

Until now we have been speaking as if all that mattered are motives and reactions of the person being asphyxia-pleasured, with the free-breathing partner being little more than a helper, witness, or at best a lifeguard. Gaspers and Chokers bring a much greater degree of mutuality to their role playing. The Choker, of course chokes. The Gasper, whom one presumes enjoys being choked, gasps and struggles and by so doing, provides the Choker with the psychic turn-on that is either the entire point — or which serves as the prelude to some other kind of sex. Yes, we are in the realm of Shared Rape Fantasy here! There's plenty of room to examine issues of "rage against women" and "self hatred" and a whole textbook of potentially applicable diagnoses and judgments which can be applied to these players. What's more, the principal spokesman for G/C is not shy about citing the history of this practice ... that it was a trick used by English and

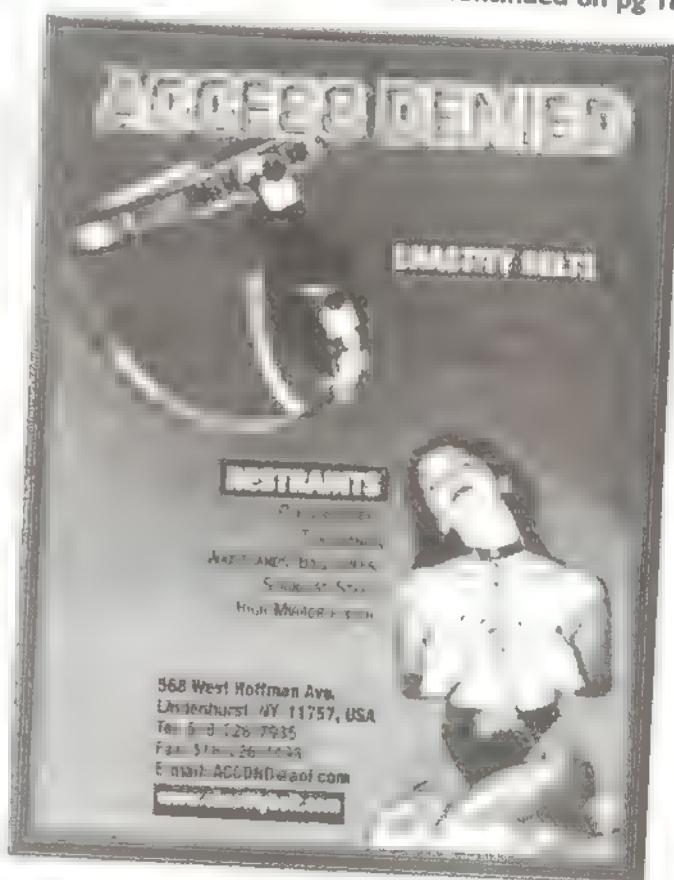
**A woman who became known
as a Gasper could earn
a lot of money
very quickly,**

.....
European prostitutes at all levels of the trade during the 18th and 19th centuries — to speed the client's coming, paying and going away. But unlike the Scarfing practice where the person *having* the orgasm is the one who is choked — here it is the **Choker** who has the orgasm.

Yes, this was an extremely rough trick for the working girl. A woman who became known as a Gasper could earn a lot of money very quickly, often without exposing herself to pregnancy or STDs. In an era when roughly half the working-class women "went on the Game" shortly before or after their first marriage, both the money and the absence of penetration were very welcome. However, the woman greatly increased her chance of meeting a "Jack the Ripper" client.

The men who sought out women who would let themselves be choked for a price, were not

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Breath Play

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Premature-Feminists by any means. These were men with real issues about women in general, and prostitutes in particular. And the practical reality was, the police hadn't a clue about "profil-ing" and no particular interest in arresting men who murdered whores — unless the rare public outcry stimulated them to action. Compounding the problem, strangled street girls were a small but significant part of the "Resurrectionist's" inventory. The body snatchers who serviced the anatomists got most of their stock from graveyards ... except when they found it more convenient or more profitable to provide a nice fresh, relatively young and healthy cadaver. The penalty for grave robbing was no less than the penalty for murder but the chances of being caught favored the killer. Streetwalkers were also frequent targets of opportunity for casual robbers. Added to that, "protectors" and husbands who might or might not be the same man, didn't lead pleasant or uplifting lives either ... and their women were the most convenient outlets for their rage. On occasion it went too far and the police had another dead female proletarian corpse to remove. Given all these factors, a man who happened to kill a streetwalker, for profit, was the very *last* suspect the authorities would be looking at, assuming that they would be looking at all.

How much risk is there in the modern practice of G/C? Nothing remotely like the risk exposure of being a streetwalker in Victorian London ... or in American cities today, for that matter. But since we have no clear idea of how many people practice this loveform and because its fatal accidents are usually regarded as "only" homicides — no one has a clue whether being a Gasper is more dangerous than, for example being married to a police officer with a drinking problem.

The Gallows is High & Eternity Near

This is the practice that gave **Autoerotic Asphyxia** its name — and its bad name, too. The term distinguishes between an ordinary death by hanging and a death where it appears

that the motive for the hanging was not death at all, but sexual gratification by means of anoxia and masturbation. To a physician it is a clear and meaningful term: when death is brought about by oxygen deprivation, whether that occurs in a fire, a drowning, a gassing, strangulation, suffocation, or by aspirating vomitus — the correct term for the mechanism of death is asphyxia. If circumstances support finding a masturbatory sexual motive for the act leading to the death:

AutoErotic + Asphyxia = "Duh!?"

This kind of fatal accident is most closely associated with young, sexually inexperienced men in their teens and early 20s. It is also associated, with somewhat less justification, with musicians. Folk performer Phil Ochs' "suicide" is widely thought to have been an accident of this nature. The first widely reported case of death by Erotic Asphyxia in the English language is probably that of Frantisek Koczwara, a Bohemian composer and viola player. In 1791, a prostitute named Susanna Hill was acquitted on the charge of hanging Koczwara during the course of their business together.



During the past two decades, mock hangings electrocutions and beheadings have been standard features in Rock and Roll Grand Guignol Extravaganzas as typified by artists such as

Alice Cooper and Marilyn Manson. This, added to the Teenage Death Angst themes often found in rock lyrics, may help explain why some young music lovers experiment with self-hanging and integrate it into their masturbatory practices.

Ironically, when this "habit" is discovered and "therapized," the accepted "substitute behavior" offered to the young patient is access to the medication **Amyl-Nitrate**. This is the original, by-prescription, heart stimulant "popper" of "Backroom and Baths" fame. The effects of the drug are thought to be similar enough to the sensations of asphyxia to be of aid in "weaning" the patient from his "self destructive habit."

(Speaking from personal experience, the author testifies that sniffing poppers provides sensations very similar to asphyxia's — but it is a lot more effective



than being strangled, longer lasting — and safer, too!)

Approximately 40 deaths in the US are officially recorded as being induced by autoerotic asphyxia. However, estimates of "possible" fatalities range from one to four incidents per million of population per year. These figures are based on a single Canadian Medical Examiner's reevaluation of incident reports, a paper review study which found 113 cases over a period of 13 years, in the provinces of Ontario and Alberta — in a

... what has this got to do with "Us"

... practitioners of "Safe Sane Consensual Clean and Sober Erotic Sadomaochism?"

.....

population of 10 million! A cursory overview of demographic factors suggests that the application of this finding to American and British populations is not unreasonable. One possible difference between the populations is the greater proportion of Roman Catholics in the Canadian cohort.

Accordingly, when a young man is found dead by hanging, for the medical examiner who has to assign a cause of death, and for the good of the surviving family who wants to avoid a verdict of suicide, accidental autoerotic asphyxia is a useful official finding which allows the victim to be buried in the cemetery of the family's choice — and the collection of any accidental death insurance. The same is true when the agency of death is a plastic bag or other "dry submarine" device.

So what has this got to do with "Us" ... practitioners of "Safe Sane Consensual Clean and Sober Erotic Sadomaochism?" Frankly ... almost nothing. Our accidents tend to involve a partner and a hog-tie, or mixing garrotage with rear-entry copulation. Once the crypto-homicides are taken out of consideration, our community suffers these tragedies at the rate of *dozens per decade* worldwide, as opposed to hundreds per year per nation. In either case, this is not a hazard on the order of "struck by lightning" or "bitten by a rattlesnake." No one *has* to die of autoerotic asphyxiation ... but nearly half the snakebites and lightning strikes do not involve such obvious invitations to disaster posed by being on a golf course in July or kissing a rattlesnake.

Finis

Well, we've gotten pretty near the end. Actually, I've got another 50 or 60 pages of rough notes, all on the topic of Autoerotic Asphyxia Accident and the decade-long controversy about it. One can assume that several people, some time, somewhere, just *must* have died during the other forms of Breath Control ... but the actual *proof*, the oft-promised "extensive documentation" that this has ever occurred — has not yet been produced!

Much of the information in this article is digested, condensed and interpreted from raw data gathered from the internet, which has an astonishingly rich store of information on the topic ... most of it sadly wanting in the area of "rigorous intellectual honesty." Anyone who wants to learn more and weigh conflicting assertions for themselves only need enter "+auto-erotic+asphyxia" into their favorite search engine

Conclusions: Hanging yourself is stupid. Off the Judo mat, a choke hold *should* be regarded as deadly force. Cops need better training in

continued on pg 20



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Breath Play

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Community Relations and the use of *sublethal* arrest techniques. Teenagers need to be told there are better ways to potentiate a hand job than by imitating an Alice Cooper stage trick at home.

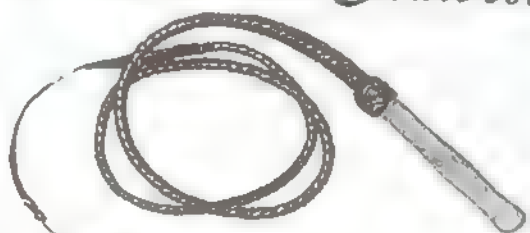
I can't say that I haven't enjoyed this little wild goose chase ... in a way ... although it's an area of study rendered fascinating by garbage data, outside agendas, sealed-room mysteries — and the incomprehensibly individual character of the human psyche.

For my own part, I have played with sexual anoxia from time to time — and on occasion, found it hot as hell psychologically. From a physical point of view — give me amyl nitrate any time. And if there's none of that around ... Pass the beer! ❖

.....
Some Breath Play Safety "Rules" will be found on pg 44, for which I am extremely grateful to "Old Sarge," one of the real, level-headed experts in the field — from whom I borrowed, shamelessly. MK
.....

(Mitch Kessler is the Editor of The Guardian and the alter-ego of Adam Selene, the whipmaker. He will continue to collect information on this and other topics in the months ahead for possible publication. He can be reached by email as siradam@ix.netcom.com)

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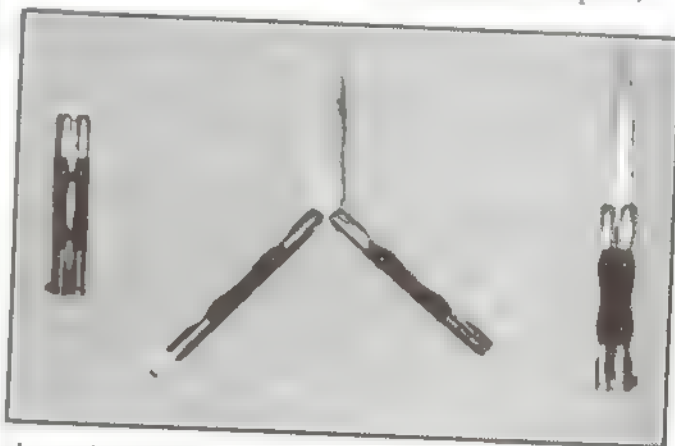
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Flashing

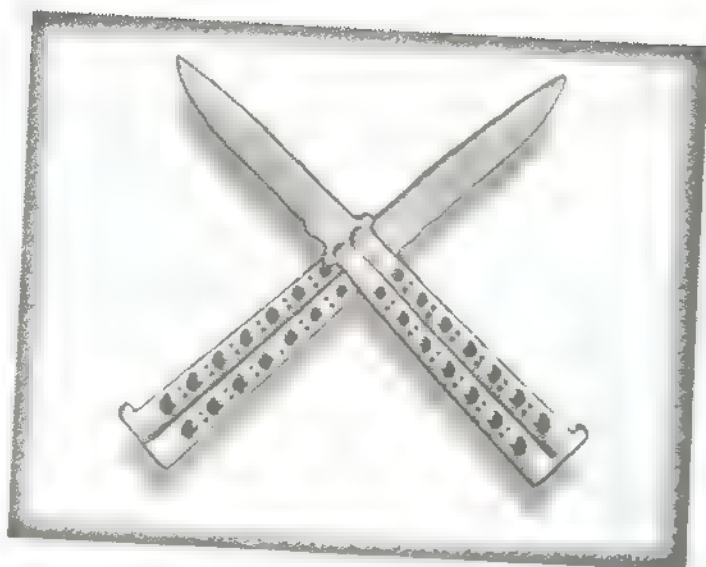
The Balisong, or "butterfly knife" is the "switchblade" of Asian gangsters and gangster movies. In the post-World War II era in the United States, the spring-loaded Italian stiletto and othr push-button cutlerly became associated with Juvenile Delinquents and teenage gangs. As a result, in 1954 a Federal law was passed banning their manufacture, importation, sale and transportation in the US. This greatly reduced the use of these dangerous weapons in B-features starring people like James Dean — while the gangsters acquired handguns and assault rifles for occupational use. In Europe, where "automatic" knives are sold freely and carried by many solid citizens, it is the Balisong which is considered the outlaw's blade.

Today there are literally hundreds of trick openings for the Balisong, and thousands of people who practice them with the dedication and commitment of martial artists. Resembling the Samurai "batojutsu" discipline,



the goal of these moves is to make the transition from empty hands to an armed strike and back again as quickly and effectively as possible. Some openings are purely juggling tricks. Others are designed to distract or intimidate an opponent. The flashier the "pass," the more dangerous the knife-fighter is thought to be and the greater the possibility that the other fellow will retreat rather than fight.

Because of their simple, low tech, design ... dollar for dollar, Balisongs are usually better knives in every way



the Balisong

by Adam Selene

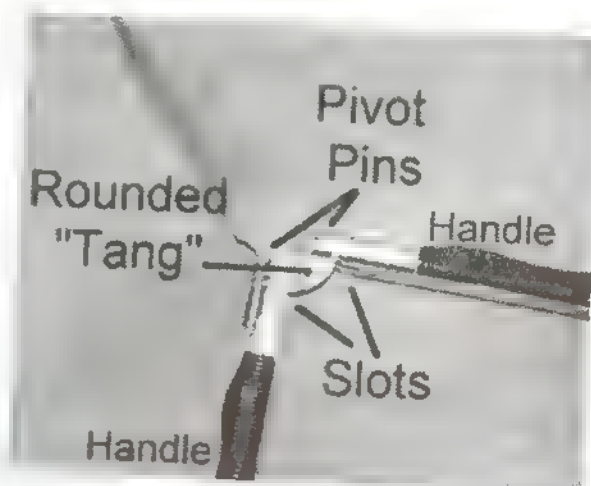
than comparably priced folding knives — especially “automatics” and switchblades. A Balisong can be made with very loose tolerances. The fitting of the parts can be downright sloppy. But when the blade is exposed, the short rounded “tang” is locked between the slots in the handles, forming a strong grip that does not wobble from side to side, nor close unexpectedly when cutting or stabbing. This allows the maker to concentrate on design and blade quality rather than on high precision machining of the handle and lock assemblies.

Perfectly useful butterfly knives, suitable for dungeon use in a wide variety of blade and handle designs can be bought for under \$10. For serious martial arts practice, or for daily cutting chores, prices of a hundred dollars or more are not unreasonable — but equivalent size and quality “tactical folders” and “automatic” pocket knives cost three to five times as much.

Opening the Knife

The following technique is an “actor’s” method — not part of the Balisong martial arts tradition at all. Here the object is to look reasonably good while simply getting the knife open without dropping it! Winding up with the optimum grip and position for a stabbing or slashing at-

tack, which knife fighters call “indexing” — simply isn’t a concern here. Nor are these moves going to impress a “real” Balisong artist ... or Asian gangster, either, but for dungeon use they will look close enough to the real thing.



Think of this whole procedure as a Magic trick. The effect of the illusion is that a shining blade appears in what had seemed to be an empty hand, and then disappears again!

The knife is pre-set in your pocket or belt where you can reach it without drawing too much attention to your knife hand. You will keep your knife-hand at belt level until you have the blade open and locked. After a while you will want learn to create a small distraction with the other hand or with a head “fake” to draw your “victim’s” eye up and to the side, *away* from the source of the knife, making the sudden appearance of the knife appear even more startling.



Misdirect your audience’s attention so you can recover (*fetch*) the knife from your belt or pocket, where it was *preset*. Hold the “dull” or “latch side” handle, leaving clearance for the

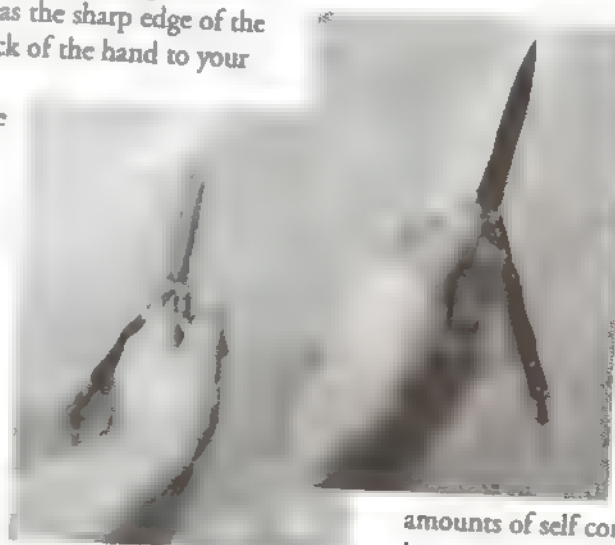


Balisong

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blade to rotate past the fingers that grip the dullside blade. (In almost all cases, the Balisong's handle latch is on the same side as the sharp edge of the blade.) Presenting the back of the hand to your audience. (You are, in effect, "palming" the knife while at the same time holding it below the line of line of sight.)

With an outward flip (twist) of the wrist alone, swing the blade in an arc over the back of the hand finishing with the blade pointing upward and the dull side of the blade hitting the back of the hand*. (In the complete move, you will not actually stop the blade here, but when first learning you will want to be able to do this part smoothly and naturally before moving on to the next step)



To make the knife now "disappear" you can, of course simply perform the first three steps in reverse order. Flip the handle and blade over the hand, covering the blade with the handle.

Spin the blade and handle "inward"

Gather the blade and handles to close the knife, palm and return it ("hide") where it came from.



In gangster movies sometimes you will see the villain emulate a rattlesnake by flashing his Balisong open and closed noisily while advancing on the unarmed hero in a threatening manner. This move conveys equal

amounts of self confidence and evil intention. It also loosens the pins that hold the knife together, and increases the chance of unintentional unilateral disarmament — by throwing the knife sideways and out of reach!

There is a second, simpler and somewhat more practical way of opening and closing this knife. If you carry a

butterfly knife as your everyday pocket knife, using it for opening mail and similar chores, this is the opening you'd most often use. It doesn't make noise, and it doesn't frighten the people next to you.



Simply put, you palm the Balisong as before, using the same relaxed "frisbee" grip. Keep your hand naturally at your side, slightly behind "the trouser seam" line. Allow the knife to fall open, then using the thumb and forefinger rotate the handle 180 degrees so the edge of knife now points "downward" Hold the dull side handle between the thumb and forefinger and raise the hand and arm, keeping the point of the knife upward. As your arm moves up and forward, the handles will naturally begin to come together. Gather them with the remaining three fingers, index, and present the knife. Reversing the procedure, of



Relaxing your grip with your wrist locked, push your elbow forward a little, so that you swing the the dull "latch side" handle "forward and around." At this point you could extend your fingers slightly, gather the two handles together and be done with it.

However, in the interests of exhibiting some "flash" and making some intimidating noise, another step can be added.

Repeat the first wrist-flicking move and, holding the "dull" handle "rebound" the "sharp" handle past your extended fingers so that it strikes the "dull" handle with a resounding click, while at the same time raising the knife to eye level. It is this intimidating double-click sound that tells everyone the knife has been opened.

Then flip the dull side handle back and "gather" the two handles together in your grip.





course, closes the knife. The move feels very slow and obvious, and makes no noise, but done smoothly with a bit of well-timed misdirection the effect can be completely mystifying.

In the past twenty years, a great deal of thought and creative energy has gone into the art of making and handling these special knives. Every knife fetishist unfamiliar with the

Balisong owes it to him- or herself to at least take a look at some of the better quality blades, and some of the advanced literature about their history and use. If the design and mystique are appealing ... why then all that remains is Practice, Practice, Practice.

Notes:

- 1) "Bali-Song" is a trademark of the **Benchmade Knife Company**. It is from them that we learn about "Barrio Balisong" where the knife is said to have originated and where **Benchmade's** first workshop producing the butterfly knife was located.
- 2) The "legality" of butterfly knives varies from State to State, from city to city, and from arresting officer to arresting officer. The Customs Service sometimes considers it a "gravity knife." When you leave home, it is probably a good idea to keep yours in a locked box in the bottom of your toybag, rather than stuck in your belt or your watch-pocket.
- 3) The "magic" of switchblades and balisongs is to transform an empty-handed blow into an armed attack in mid-stroke — hence the negative attitude by law enforcement concerning people who carry them. "On the Street," small edged weapons work best 1) for robbery by intimidation or 2) when the other guy is unarmed and doesn't know you aren't until it's too late! The use of pocket knives as "defensive" weapons for law-abiding citizens is, at best, limited — often counterproductive. A four inch blade will rarely deter a career criminal in the least, and will not stop a determined attacker in time to do the defender any good. The appearance of a knife will, however, often provoke an attack ... especially if the other fellow is intoxicated or fancies himself a Street Warrior or, as is often the case — both. ♦

Resources

Balisong Books:

Balisong Manual

by Jeff Imada List Price: \$12.95

considered *the* introductory text on Butterfly Knives and their use

Balisong: The Lethal Art of Filipino Knife Fighting
By Sid Campbell List Price: \$12.00

The Standard Knife Collector's Guide
By Roy Ritchie and Ron Stewart

Balisong Websites:

<http://www.contrib.andrew.cmu.edu/~soo/balisong/bali-gallery.html>

<http://www.balisongxtreme.com/>

<http://www.balisong.com>

<http://www.BladeForums.com!>

<http://www.kiddspage.com/balisong/faq.html#library>

<http://www.balisongcollector.com/>

Mailorder Stores Which Sell Butterfly Knives:

Smokey Mountain Knife Works
Sevierville, TN 1-800-251-9306

One Stop Knife Shop
Jacksonville, FL
1 800 969-7771 Orders Only
1 904 739-3438 Information
<http://www.onestopknifeshop.com/>

Principle Manufacturer of Premium Bali-Song Knives

(Offers catalog; sells though dealers and retailers *only*)

Benchmade Knife Company, Inc.

Phone: (800) 800-7427 Phone: (503) 655-6004



Temporary, or "Play" Piercing.

by Stephen

Nothing can substitute for hands-on instruction and a live demonstration of piercing technique. That being said, not everyone lives in a city large enough to attend a demo or find an experienced practitioner. And not everyone can afford the time or money to attend the various seminars and conventions that have sprung up around the country of late. So rather than suggest people play without *any* guidance, what follows below is a basic introduction to play-piercing technique.

The first thing to do is to clean the area with some sort of anti-bacterial agent. Typically I've seen **Betadyne™** used, then cleaned off with rubbing alcohol afterwards to remove the yellow color, if that is more to your aesthetic tastes. Be careful, **Betadyne™** stains everything! Be sure that clothing is out of the way.

Needles

The choice of needles is important. Sewing needles are pitted and are very difficult to get clean. Worse than that though, they are **dull** and so are very hard to get through the skin ... and cause a lot more pain than most people want. I suggest you use sterile injection needles, individually wrapped and disposed of afterwards in a sharps container.

Finding a supply of such needles can be



rather difficult. They are illegal in many states, and if so you may want to investigate local veterinary suppliers for alternatives. Or if you have

friends in the Pacific Northwest, or New York State perhaps they could acquire some and mail them to you. Or find a friend who is a nurse and is willing to be helpful. If all else fails, search on the Internet for hypodermic needles.

When putting the needle into the skin, I prefer having the point side down. (Modern injection needles are cut at an angle. One side has the point.) You can either pull the skin flat or bunch up a bit of skin between two fingers to

help with the initial entry, but if so be very careful about where your fingers are. Latex gloves won't stop an incoming needle

Once you are under the skin, you should

The SandM Utopian Guardian #39

change the angle and glide shallowly beneath the surface until you want to bring it up again.

Then tilt the tip of the needle up, and break through. This will take more pressure than gliding under the skin, and many people say this is the most painful part of the piercing.

Once the needle is in you can do any number of things with it. You can press on it, to increase sensation; or let the person sit there and enjoy the natural rush of the effects. You can even run another needle underneath the first and press the two together, pinching the small piece of skin between them.

If you are feeling decorative you could replace the needle with string and attach a bead or bauble to the skin. To do this you need to put thread through from the pointed end of the needle, and pull it out from the plastic end which would connect to the syringe. For some reason this is the only direction it will thread through. But be careful not to stick yourself with the point. After you have the thread through, remove the needle from the skin holding the thread in place, and you will have a thread running underneath the skin that you can then tie off to a bead, an initial, bells, or a small spiked ball ... whatever brings you pleasure.

Once in place, the needle or thread can be left in for an awfully long time. I've left needles in

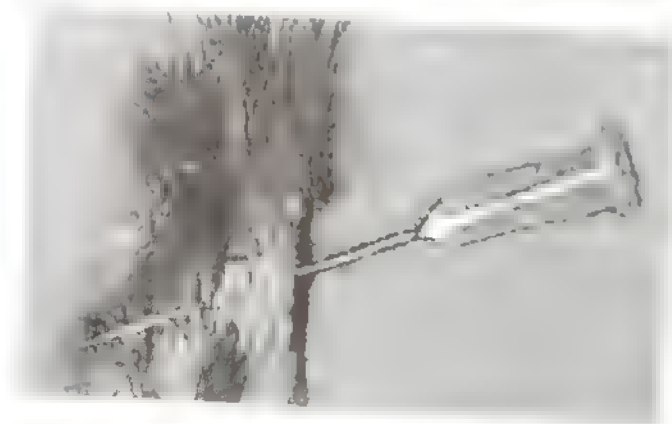


After it's over

Aftercare is pretty much keep it clean and let it heal. You can use an antibacterial cream if you like, but that won't penetrate to all the places the needle has traveled. I've frequently seen people holding rubbing alcohol or **Betadine**™ on the needle when it was being removed to clean the end going back through the skin. Rubbing alcohol afterwards is really counterproductive. An antibacterial agent is better to kill germs, and rubbing alcohol will thin the blood and slow down the clotting and sealing of the wound. I've even heard (though I'm not sure I believe) that the alcohol damages the skin. I however, use it almost without fail, because it makes it hurt more! If the worst happens and you get a bacterial infection, go to a doctor, and get a prescription for antibiotics.

Caution

Last note of caution. The skin in most places can be run through fairly safely, but if you are going in at any depth, study your anatomy first to make sure you are going to cross anything you don't want to puncture. The buttocks and thighs are safe almost everywhere, as are labia and nipples, but beyond there I'd study or ask a medical professional. Know where you are going before diving in, and enjoy. ♦



a person without incident for over eight hours, removing them only because of problems with the person sleeping. (It can poke you or tear out if you are sleeping unrestrained.) If you are replacing the needle with a thread (see below) then you can leave the thread in for several days, until it breaks. (Needles are stronger than skin, but thread isn't.)

THE TAWES REVISITED

A PUNISHMENT TOOL FOR SCOTTISH SCHOOL CHILDREN IS NOW
A POPULAR BDSM TOY

BY ADAM SELENE

I have to admit that the Tawes that we've been making at **Adam and Gillian's Sensual Whips and Toys** has been completely inauthentic! Customers like it, but somewhere along the line I got the idea that this instrument of Scottish school-room discipline was supposed to be stiff and easy to aim. With time, our tawes became a highly engineered, flexible narrow paddle with an internally rigid handle and multiple "fingers," used for butt-beating.

The Reverend Cooper's *Illustrated History of the Rod*, describes the Tawes (which he spells "taws") as, "a long strap of tolerably stout leather." At one point he describes the instrument as being "toasted" over a fire to make it stiff and board-like. However, another chapter informs us:

This strap is made of soft, pliable leather, and at the end is divided into a number of small strips and when this instrument is applied to a young lady's hand, the effect is marvelous.

The pain it produces is no doubt rather severe, but in a short time it goes off; and there is not the least doubt that in this respect it is infinitely superior to the birch as there can be nothing immodest or indecent in this mode of punishment, not the slightest fear of bruising or injuring the lady's person, and the pain it produces is quite sufficient ...

The Oxford Dictionary of the English Language tells us that the accepted mod-

ern spelling of tawes (or twaes) is "taws" and that this was originally: "a few strips of leather tied to a shaft, used by boys in spinning tops," according to an 1892 edition of the "Ballymena Observer" in Antrim. An earlier reference from the year 1513 describes its use:

*As the round top of tre [wooden top]
Hit with the twynit quhyp, dois quherle,
we see smyttin wyth the tawis dois rebound,
And rynniss about, about, in cirkill round.*

The accepted definition being, therefore:

1. A whip for driving a spinning top; esp. one made of a thong ... but also:
2. spec. An instrument of family or school discipline, used in Scottish and many English schools, consisting of a leathern strap or thong, divided at the end into narrow strips. In Scottish usage as a plural, and in phrase, "a pair of taws."

The authority for *this* usage goes back to 1858 when a fellow named Polwart Flyting wrote:

*In thy teeth bring mee the tawes,
With beκες my bidding to abide.*

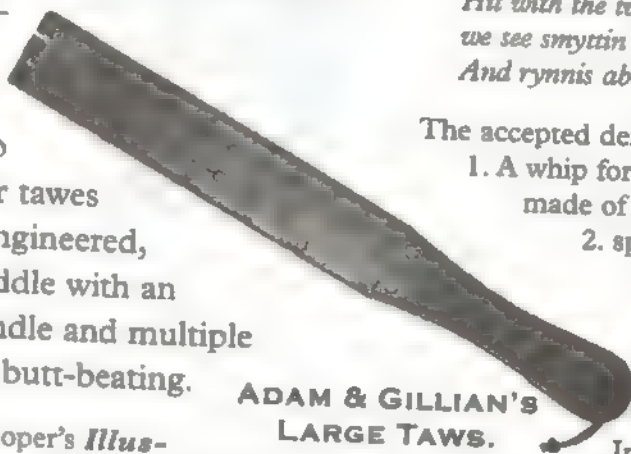
And in 1719 a fellow named Hamilton wrote:
I've kiss'd the tawz, like a good bairn.

We now learn from **M C Customs Leather** of Paisley, Scotland, that:

The tawse is associated with Scotland, just as the cane is with England, and has been employed in domestic, educational and judicial contexts. Incidentally, in Scotland the tawse is more commonly known as "the belt."

This modern Saddler and Taws-maker also tells us:

The tawse is a leather strap with its business end cut into a number of tails (usually two or three). The tawse may be applied to the palm of the hands or the buttocks. If the latter, it may be applied over



ADAM & GILLIAN'S
LARGE TAWS.

clothing, but to be fully effective it should be applied to the bare flesh. Unlike the cane, a leather strap can be safely applied to the hand: it will hurt but not injure, and six of the very best can be safely inflicted.

Many Scottish saddlers used to make tawses but the best implements were undoubtedly manufactured by the firm of **John Dick & Sons** of Lochgelly, a small town about 12 miles north of Edinburgh.

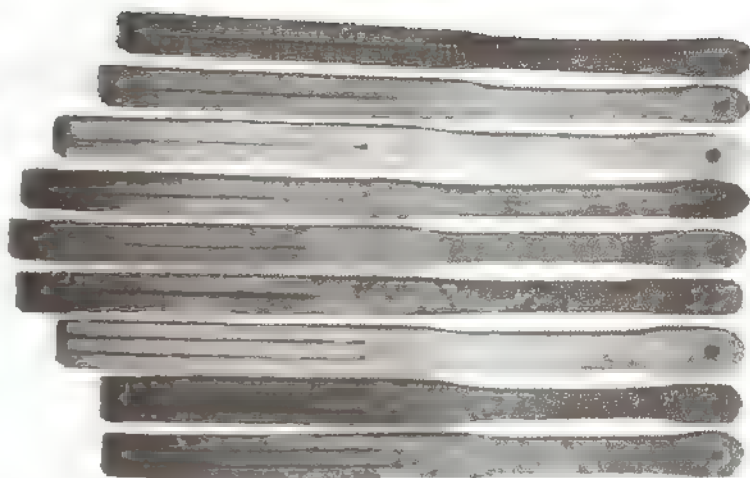
The famous Lochgelly tawse began with a saddler named Philps who started making tawses for his son and daughter who were both teachers. These proved so effective that other teachers soon wanted to own a "Lochgelly" and the business quickly expanded. The firm eventually passed into the hands of the Dick family and remained with them for three generations until they ceased trading in 1984. At one time the firm was selling 70 or 80 tawses a week and also had a thriving export trade.

The Lochgelly tawse boasted a number of features which made it a very effective instrument of punishment:

- 1) The saddler used a particularly heavy and dense leather.
- 2) The tawse was very well designed. Some saddlers made their tawses too long, which made them difficult to use effectively. The Lochgelly was just the right length.
- 3) The Lochgelly was available in a number of weights (light, medium, heavy and extra heavy) and with two or three tails.
- 4) Lochgelly tawses were ferociously painful and were accordingly dreaded by pupils.

A collector of school tawses reports that he has, "specimens of the full range of Lochgellys and a large number of tawses from other Scottish saddlers. Some saddlers made pretty good belts but none of them equalled the Lochgelly."

John Dick originally made tawses for the school and domestic markets. Later he decided to concentrate on supplying schools, and a teacher's registration certificate was required to buy one of his straps. Other saddlers then moved in to meet the very considerable domestic demand, for many Scottish homes kept a tawse handy. Pity the poor Scottish lad who got his hands belted at school, then had his bare behind belted at home!



An assortment of "Lochgellys"

We are also indebted to MC for quoting the official regulations of the use of the Taws in the Scottish schoolroom:

- 1) The punishment should be inflicted in front of other pupils in order to act a deterrent.
- 2) The pupil should be called to the front of the class

continued on pg 28

Radical Sex Photographs

by Michael Rosen

High quality soft-cover books of fine art photographs of radical sexuality, featuring individuals, couples and groups of all genders and persuasions.



Sexual Art: X-Rated, but not porn. Transgressive images of explicit sex, featuring non-standard penetration. Can sexually explicit images be art? This book argues that the answer is YES! 54 images. See photograph at left. \$30.

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Sexual Portraits: Real people. 50 images of S/M, erotic piercings and tattoos, leather, leather and lace, rubber, Master/slave, gender play, etc. Extensive and revealing interviews. *Featured in Guardian* #10. See photo at left. \$30.00

\$6 discount for two books, \$12 discount for three. Add shipping \$5. CA residents add tax \$2 per book. Shaynew Press Dept G, POB 425221, San Francisco, CA 94147. See more at www.shaynew.com

THE TAWES REVISITED

and told to hold out one hand, palm uppermost, and supported by the other hand. This makes it more difficult for the boy to move his hand away during the infliction of the cuts.

3) If the teacher is inexperienced, he should hold the belt midway along the handle to give better control. Otherwise, the belt should be held towards the end to maximise its swing.

4) Prior to each stroke the tails should be rested lengthways on the pupil's upturned palm. This allows the teacher to judge the stroke.

5) The belt should be drawn back over the teacher's shoulder and

continued from pg 27

brought down on to the pupil's palm with some force, so that the tails strike the fingers and palm.

6) If more than one stroke is to be given, the pupil should be briskly ordered to 'swap hands!'. When the pupil offers his other palm the second stroke should be given, once again with force, and this process should be repeated until the allotted punishment has been completed.

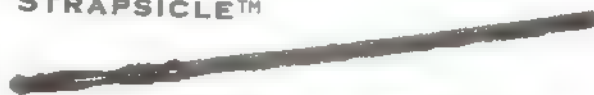
So, what we've been calling a Tawes all these years is a form of paddle, and our wood-handled Strapsicle™ or the Viper Tongues™ we

also make, are both closer to the original "Taws" — but are considerably less popular with BDSM devotees.

For those desiring the authentic Scottish article for their schoolroom fantasies contact:

M C Custom Leather
PO Box 1377
Paisley PA1 2DP
SCOTLAND
<http://home.freeuk.net/mkb/instruments/scotsbelt.htm>

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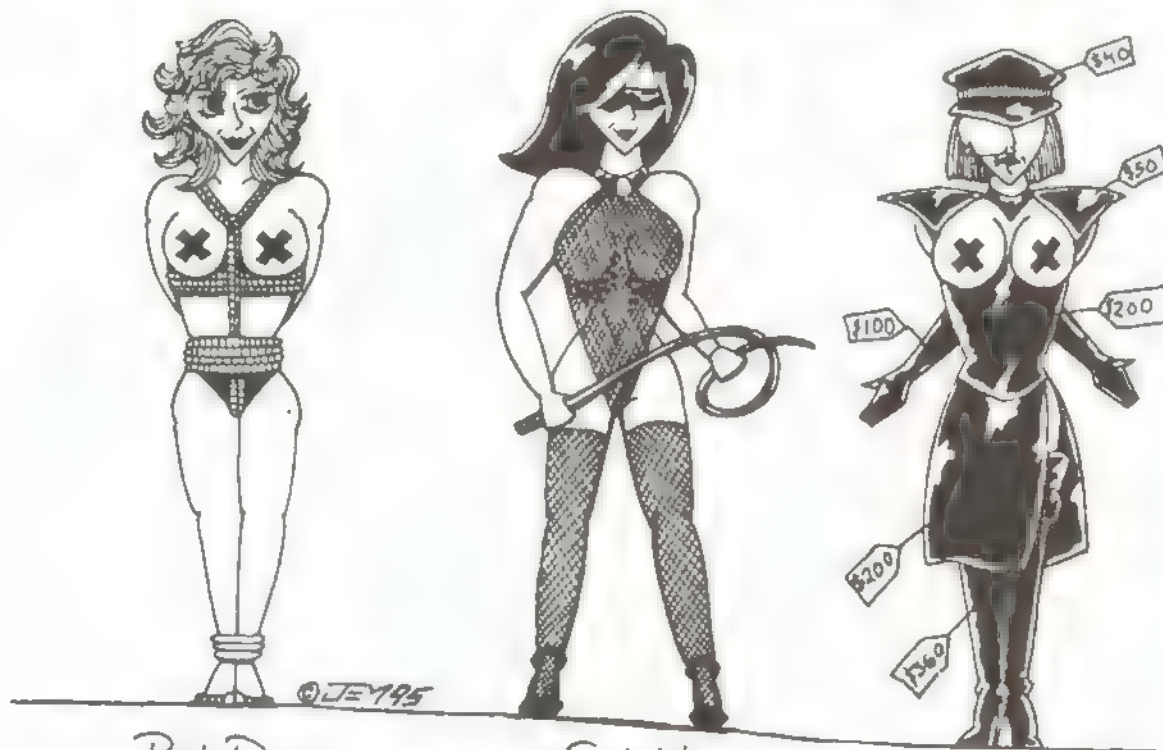


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Finding a Therapist

Absolutely love your magazine! I do my best never to miss an issue. I've found it very informative, and have used some of your advice.

I am currently the Master of a wonderful slave who, unfortunately, has more problems than I am able to help with. She was viciously beaten and raped by her former Master. She has been in counseling for the last six years, off and on, but has always been reluctant to reveal the full details of the incident. Part of the reason has been that her therapist knew her family and she didn't want her parents to know what happened to her. For years she maintained that she was mugged. The rest was that she didn't fully trust the therapist to be able to deal with the Master/slave issues involved. We have made wonderful progress, but her problems are much more serious than I am capable of resolving and I fear I am out of my depth. She truly wants to resume therapy and I hope you might have some suggestions. I am looking for a therapist in the central NJ area, that has experience with BDSM.

Michael
NJ

Mitch Replied:

The quick and easy answer is to give you the **Kink Aware Professional's List**: www.bannon.com/kap/mainlist.htm ... which provides references in these categories: Psychotherapist (psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker) Pastoral (spiritually-based counseling) Medical Doctor, Dentist complementary

continued from pg 4

Healing Professionals (chiropractors, acupuncturists, massage therapists, etc.).

However, they do so subject to this disclaimer:

"KAP cannot in any way endorse or recommend any of these professionals since *often their inclusion on this list is done without any screening*. However, each professional listed has volunteered to be available for referral to people involved in "kinky" sexuality (leather, SM, fetish, etc.) either by contacting KAP directly or through another kink-friendly publication or organization."

I have often taken the militant position that we BDSM people do not give enough attention to our "Identity Politics," in most aspects of our lives. But in this case I'd have to reverse myself and say that I lean toward being actively suspicious of a practitioner who *trades on* her/his "Kink-Friendliness," — especially if he or she is unlicensed or "alternatively qualified."

You probably know that choosing a Mental Health Care Provider is a "crap-shoot" under the best of circumstances. While it is expensive to interview and reject a succession of therapists, it is probably far more costly to submit to the care of the first available practitioner — however well-recommended or seemingly well-qualified. Kink-Friendliness is only one of the characteristics that the consumer should look for and I would find it odd that any contemporary therapist who regularly succeeds in earning the trust of "the people she/he works for ... would not have at least a little experience with BDSM — let alone not have developed some understanding and acceptance of What It Is We Do.

There is a very good argument that the "shrink" who can allow him/herself to be "educated about BDSM," and "won over" to an accepting and

supportive attitude toward that aspect of their client's life ... is probably a better choice than a Kink-specific practitioner whose support and acceptance is rooted in the practitioner's *own* Identity Politics.

In other words, the question at the first meeting is not, "Can you please fit me into your busy schedule and save me from my troubles." ... but rather, "Do you agree that the problem I present you with is a problem you can address — and can you tell me how you propose to proceed in helping me?"

While I don't know what symptoms or psychic malaise make up your slave's "presenting problem" ... it seems that she took an active role in assuring that the therapy she has had in the past would not come anywhere near her *real* issues. One has to wonder why did she continue to consult a therapist she did not trust

to keep her secrets, and why did she present him/her with a falsified version of herself and her issues?

I would be concerned that this has something to do with "protecting a secret" whose revelation is too terrible to contemplate. Often people make the decision to guard secrets ... for what seem to be irrational and inappropriate reasons — to others. It is not always in anyone's best interests to penetrate the self-deception and illuminate the underlying trauma ... unless there is someone who knows, what the worst-case consequences of disclosure might be — and who is able and willing to deal with them.

For example: are you ready to consider what to do next if your slave really was, by *your* standards, "abused" by a trusted adult ... that this pattern was established in early childhood ... and that as an adult she has a pattern of seeking "survivable abusers" — and it turns out that *you* are the latest one?! ♦



CB2000 -- The Modern Male Chastity Device

by Frank Miller & Mitch Kessler

The fantasy of long-term chastity training or genital restraint for men may not be everyone's turn-on, but it is not all that uncommon either. Essentially, the concept is similar to that of a wedding ring. It will not actually *prevent* "straying," but it serves as a constant reminder of exclusive ownership by another, and offers at least a convincing attempt at enforcing that exclusivity.

Most often, it is the man himself who desires and suggests that his sexual apparatus be restrained. Part of the reason may be to compensate for the traditional double standard of sexual behavior and all the other sexist restrictions perpetrated on women, by physically restraining his most intimate functions. It may also serve as a romantic gesture of submission, [*"You own and control me, even on this intimate and secret level."*] or it could be a crypto-defiant way of rejecting personal responsibility for extra-curricular sexual activity [*"Hillary, you know that unless I am physically restrained I cannot be held responsible for the occasional blow job in the Oval Office."*].

In the 19th Century, a number of designs were developed to thwart casual masturbation — but more importantly, to prevent spontaneous erections while awake, and nocturnal emissions when asleep. These continence-protecting measures ranged from elaborate mechanical devices to a string, strategically tied. These arrangements were entirely under the man's personal control and might be removed at any time for bathing, elimination, or when the urging of the flesh overcame the good intentions of the spirit.

There are any number of male chastity belts on the market. Most are bedroom toys, intended, like most chastity belts for women, for a few hours wear at most. More serious devices, intended to be worn for weeks at a time and designed to be difficult to escape from are harder to find. In addition, the more secure designs are generally



quite expensive, require customized fitting and, made of the traditional materials ... leather or metal or a combination of the two, — present difficulties in personal hygiene, showering and urination.

The designers of the CB2000 have taken very seriously the need for a male genital restraint which is both practical and effective. According to their advertising material:

The male is born with (an) inner desire of fantasy and power. This driving force is Sex and they will do whatever it takes to fulfill this need. They go off in their little fantasy world and masturbate wherever they can ... in the car on the way to work, in the shower, while taking walks in the country. You name it, he's done it. Studies have shown that men think of sex every twelve minutes. Most men don't really grow up. They want bigger toys and more fantasies and masturbate two to three times a day.

And in addition they assert:

The more he masturbates the lower his testosterone level and this causes a loss of energy. You want to go places and do things that will create some excitement and have fun and he wants to watch games on TV. Oh, what a vicious circle ... foolish man. Would you like more help around the house, flowers, a real kiss for a change? Then take control of his masturbation. He will still go off to his fantasy world and get excited even in his chastity device and this makes it even more



interesting because you will be his fantasy. When you are holding the key to his heart he will be thinking of you all day

What's more, say the CB200's manufacturers, long-term genital restraint may have unexpected benefits for the man himself:

The main body of the CB-2000 has a 1 1/2" inside diameter. The purpose behind this is when a man wears the device and cannot extend in length, the penis then must extend in circumference. Over a period of time the penis will become larger in girth, which can be very satisfying to the partner.

Taking these ideas for what they are worth, the CB2000 comes highly recommended by men who have lived with it. They like its plastic construction which is lightweight, non-chafing and allows almost unrestricted bathing and urination. In addition, the CB2000 is inconspicuous under loose clothing, and does not trigger metal detectors in airports, courtrooms or other security controlled locations!



Unauthorized removal of the chastity harness is also very difficult. The foundation of the device is a conventional solid cock ring, made of specially formulated polycarbonate plastic, as are all the parts of the device. (In an emergency this material is easier to cut than any metal, yet is strong enough that it cannot be removed without tools and considerable effort.) The fit of the ring is cri-

tical: it must be wide enough so that the larger of the man's two testicles can pass through it, leaving enough room for his flaccid penis to pass as well, followed by the smaller testicle. The tighter the fit, the more secure the restraint.

The second, smaller ring passes over the penis shaft, trapping the testicles between the two rings. A space for the scrotal skin and its interior



tubing is maintained by a pair of spacer posts.

The single post on the foundation ring is pierced to accept a mechanical lock, or alternatively a plastic security seal can be used to prevent surreptitious removal by the wearer.

Owners report that the arrangement is indeed, almost impossible to escape from. However, there are few restraints so effective that a dedicated escapist cannot find a way out of them. To prevent this, the CB2000 offers a refinement: "The Points of Intrigue." These are slightly blunted polycarbonate plastic spikes, which fit over the locking pin and make pulling out of the harness potentially quite painful

According to the designer:

The discomfort in trying to pull out of the 'Points of Intrigue' makes it less than desirable. More than likely, the five lines that would appear along the shaft would be quite noticeable. Even if this is accomplished, getting back in while in a flaccid state could prove to be very interesting. In an excited state, it could prove to be even more challenging!!

The basic CB2000 restraint costs \$149.00 USD plus \$20 shipping and handling. The Points of Intrigue are \$49.00 per set, from:

Doris and Frank Miller — CB-2000
121 Industrial Park Rd. Suite 101
Henderson, NV 89015
702-565-1999 Fax: 702-565-5918 ♦



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Tape Only

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Plugged - "...Gay material. Sling Slut has ... chanting ... in a guy's voice and Daddy's Ride has a Daddy talking dirty to his bottom

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Leopold von Sacher Masoch

Born, Lemberg, January 27, 1836 -

Died, Lindheim, March 9, 1895



Classic Submissive?

Pushy Bottom? or

Autocratic, Sadistic Tyrant?

Leopold von Sacher-Masoch was all these ... or none of these. A complicated man, he is best remembered as the author of *Venus in Furs*, and the one whom Richard von Krafft Ebing made the source of *his* term, "masochism."

Was Leopold, her husband and author, the father of all Phony Male Submissives everywhere? Was he also a domestic terrorist, who flaunted literary, and possibly literal infidelities ... and who used the male supremacist laws and customs of his time and place in 19th Century Europe to take custody of his children and abandon his wife — leaving her penniless? *Confessions of my Life*, by Wanda von Sacher Masoch contains some troubling questions and provides even more disturbing answers.

My reaction ... after the wide-eyed shock wore off ... was to call the publisher and inquire after the provenance of this remarkable indictment. I found out this book has been in (and out) of print in the French language for almost a hundred years. Since then I've seen references to it in one or two articles. Whatever else it



Wanda von Sacher Masoch

Born **Aurora Rumelin** in Graz, 1845

and died in the early 1900's.

She was given the name **Wanda**
by her husband.

is, it is *not* a recent forgery. Understandably, the biographical detail is accurate ... although it could have been prepared from public and published documents — and common literary gossip.

Sacher Masoch was a very popular mainstream writer of his day. Not well-paid. But then, almost no high-minded authors were. Nor was Masoch an Ibsen — he certainly was not a Shaw! Still, whenever his wife Wanda became *too* independent or troublesome he would simply become unable or unwilling to earn money!

This was especially terrorizing to Wanda, since she had been raised in dire poverty and had a not-unreasonable fear of returning to poverty — along with her children. Leopold was very skilled at invoking that waking nightmare, and used it effectively and whenever it suited him. He also moved the family around from place to place and on occasion, dodging an arrest warrant.

We tend to forget that the ending of *Venus in Furs* is very un-Feminist. Masoch, speaking as Severin describes the core of the story:

"That woman, as nature has created her, and as man at present is educating her, is man's enemy. She can only be his slave or his despot, but never his *companion*. This she can become only when she has the same rights as he and is his equal in education and work. At present we have only the choice of being hammer or anvil, and I was the kind of donkey who let a woman make a slave of him.

The moral of the tale is this: Whoever allows himself to be whipped, deserves to be whipped. The blows ... have agreed with me; the roseate suprasensual mist has dissolved, and no one can ever make me believe again that these 'sacred apes of Benares' ... are the image of God. ❖



See *Guardian* issue #20 for the contract that Leopold drew up with his real six month trip with Fanny Pistor.

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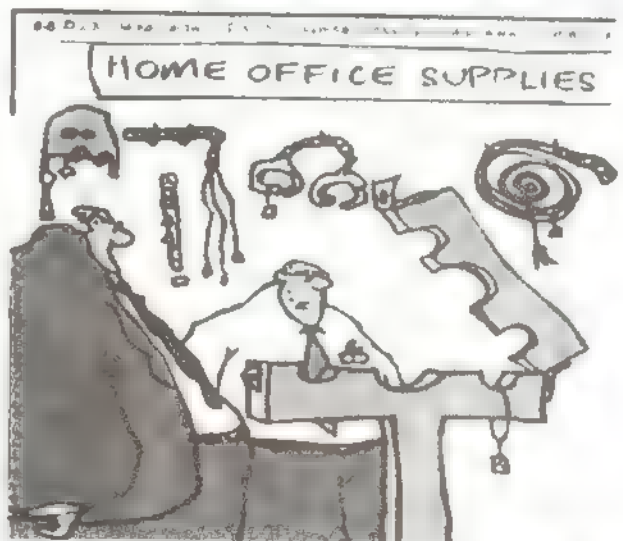
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BY NICK BULL (ARTIST) FOR THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN

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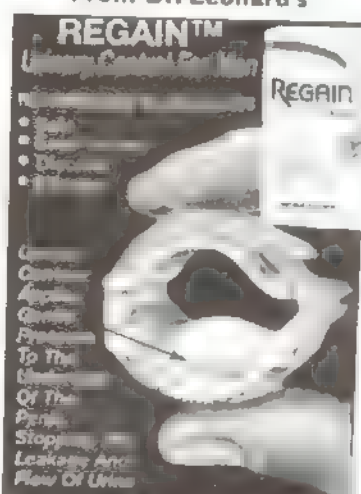
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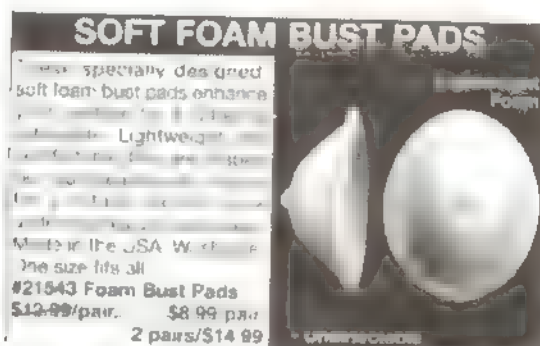
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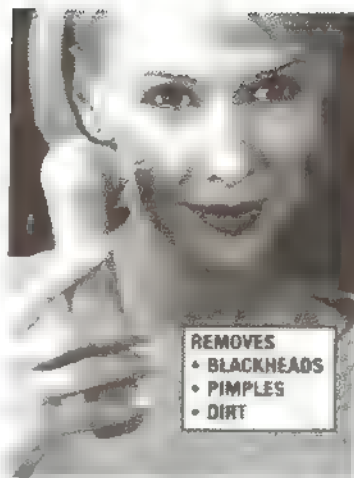
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You can even put it in a shipping box with packing, and ship it almost anywhere, calling the contents, "jewelry"!

A Quick Look at Japanese Bondage

by Cree

The one common denominator in many BDSM scenes is bondage, as an adjunct (e.g. to a whipping) or as the scene itself (e.g. creating a Spider Web). It can be simple or elaborate. The Top can use rope, leather, chain, rubber, canvas — or wood, as in stocks.

A popular form is Japanese Bondage which employs a combination of elements: beauty, power, aesthetics, helplessness and the intense erotic massage by the knots and ropes using a technique called Layering. This form uses more than one rope to create the full bondage effect. Time is used to enhance the erotic stimulus caused by the rubbing of the ropes.

The Basic Layer

All bondage starts with the basics, called *Shinju* (pearls) for the breasts and *Sakuranbo* (Cherry) for the crotch. Either can be worn under normal clothing like underwear. Have the bottom wear them shopping or out to a nice dinner before the fun begins!

For the *Shinju*, take a 12-15 foot length of 1/4 to 3/8-inch rope and begin to wind it evenly around the torso just under the breasts. Each turn should be taut but not tight. Tie the ends together in the back next to, but not on, the spine. The second rope then goes just above the breasts.

If the bondage is to be worn under clothing take a 9-12 foot rope, double it; push the loop end down between the breasts. Take the open ends and run them through

the loop, then pull tight. Run the end around each side of the neck and down the back. Bring one end to the inside and one to the outside of the body ropes. Wrap around and tie off with a square knot. This will uplift and support the breasts. The breasts and nipples should become more sensitive to the touch.

A variation is attaching the wrists to the torso ropes. Take a 12-15 foot rope, then double it. Parallel the lower arms behind the back. Push the loop up between the body and the arms. Run the ends of the rope through the loop, wrap around the arms several times and run the ends between the arms and around the wraps. Tie off. Be sure that the rope is taut. Thread the ends of the excess rope under the torso ropes. Go around each side of the neck, down between the breasts and loop around the torso ropes. Tie a knot. Return the ends back over the shoulders and tie off after wrapping around the torso ropes. This completes the *Shinju*.

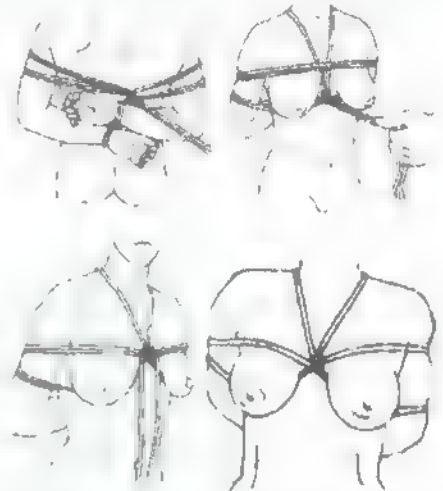
Begin the *Sakuranbo* using 12-15' of rope. Wrap it around the waist once, then pull the ends through the loop and down through the vaginal lips, then up between the buttocks. Tie a knot on either side of the spinal column. Make sure that the rope is taut but not cutting. Use the rest of the rope, to run between and under the buttocks, around the leg, then up to the waist. Tie off. This completes the *Sakuranbo*.

Other Layers

Now that you have the basic

layer in place, use your creativity to have fun adding more and more rope. Wrapping the rope around an erogenous zone can stimulate the whole area. (Tying a knot in the rope can stimulate a particular spot such as over the clitoris.)

The *Kani* (crab) will allow your partner to move only by opening and closing his or her legs. The chest rope goes around the upper arms before tying the wrists together. Then have them kneel on the floor. Begin by wrapping the rope around the ankle and the upper



Erotic Bondage Handbook by Jay Wiseman
Review in # 38

thigh. As you come to the ends of the rope, wrap them around the thigh-ankle wrapping to tighten and hold the rope in place. When both legs are done, have your partner try to move and see what happens!

For the *Uma* (horse) you need two strong ceiling hooks widely spaced and about 30 feet of rope. Tie the rope to one hook, then lead it through the crotch and up to the second hook. Pull tightly until she has to stand on her toes and tie. If he tries to lower his feet, the rope digs more deeply causing more stimulation. You can also tie knees and ankles together. The smallest movement will cause erotic excitement. Add a blindfold, then slowly

(very slowly) tease or torment. You both will enjoy every minute of it.

The *Niwatori* (chicken) is about a bird with useless limbs. You are trying to take away your partner's freedom little by little. Start with the over-the-arm of the *Shinju*. Begin wrapping a 12-15 foot rope around the body over the upper arms ... then over and under the breasts — snug but not tight. Then with two 6-8 foot ropes, use one end to connect the front and back, wrapping between the arm and the body. Repeat with the lower wrapping. Duplicate on the opposite side. Now that your partner's arms are pinned to the sides, ask him/her to do something for you ... perhaps make you a drink. She still has the use of her lower arms. After some time, bend one arm back at a 90-degree angle and tie it to the back. Let your partner continue with the serving. Finish the tie by doing the same thing to the other arm.

The *Shima* (the island) is a total bondage experience. In order to get the full effect, this is spread out over a long time in several stages. The first starts with the basic *Shinju* and *Sakaranbo*. When your partner is comfortable with the ropes, tie their hands together, palm to palm. Tie the elbows as closely together as you can without causing discomfort. Let her become accustomed to the position before going to the next stage.

Have him kneel on something soft. For the final layer take 20-25 feet of rope. Feed one end under her legs and pull to even it out. Wrap the end over the upper legs, around the legs again and knot. Feed the ends up through the *Sakaranbo* and *Shinju* starting at the waist. The ends then go between the legs, and out on either side. Push down to adjust the tension and tie off at the back of the

Shinju layer. The Bottom is now in a fetal position and can remain like that for a while.

The *Ai* (love) is an asymmetrical position and harder to deal with mentally, especially with a blindfold. This is a good bondage position if your partner has a "forced sex or rape" fantasy. Begin with the over-the-arms variation of *Shinju*. Tie the wrists in front in a parallel position. Tie one ankle to the upper thigh as in the *Kani*. Tie the other ankle to the ceiling hook and pull until the leg is straight out. Your partner is now open to you with crotch spread.

Afterward

Untying is as important as the tie. It should be done slowly, allowing blood to flow back into the limbs. Massage the areas that were just unbound to minimize any residual result from the tight cramped positions. Support the limb as it slowly stretches out and do not pull it straight until your partner is ready. Your partner's body has just exerted itself so she or he will need food or drink. Always keep a glass of water nearby. Help to bathe the sweat from her body and wrap in warm towels.

Conclusion

Japanese bondage is not for people with medical problems. The physical strain may be too great and some bondage is too complicated to be released quickly with a knife or scissors. (But keep them handy.) Be sure your partner uses the toilet before you begin otherwise you just might have to clean it up! This type of bondage is not learned overnight. It will take a lot of practice and a willing partner to master it. Details, aesthetics and beauty are the goal. They can be altered to fit a situation, so feel free to experiment. Most of all, enjoy! ♦

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D/s, An Anti-Love Story

by Gary S. Kadet

Forge, T. Doherty Assoc. LLC

New York, 448 pgs. Hardcover \$24.95

Protagonist Perry Patetic has the seven-year itch. He also has the pre-nuptial jitters. His live-in girlfriend whom he never calls by name, is pressuring Perry for a wedding date, while at the same time withdrawing into work, sleep and a sex-proof "tangle of limbs and bedclothes." On his part, Perry has found his own protected space in front of his computer screen, exploring the Dreams Come True BDSM BBS, typing with one hand. A grotesque and abusive boss adds to Perry's woes by taking away his only visible means of support, an obscure and anonymous column in a local weekly newsrag.

It is against this bleak and hopeless landscape of a life that Perry seeks out the BDSM sexuality subculture, progressing from a verbal encounter in a fetish shop, to bondage play with a gay male friend, and from there to his coming out as a heterosexual male submissive in the local public S/M scene, where he meets the grand passion of his life. She is Karennina, a high powered real estate dealer whose domestic affairs are also far less than perfect. An intense liaison develops, filled with intrigue and forbidden pleasures conducted in the exotic setting of the public clubs, private parties and secret societies of the East Coast's wild and decadent S/M scene.

When Karennina is found murdered ... beaten to death and tied to a bondage cross ... the police consider Perry as the obvious (and only) suspect — and this penetratingly insightful exploration of the steamy S/M subculture becomes a page turner of a thriller in which Perry must find his true love's real killer before his own life turns *really* bad.



The question is: how far "over the line" did author Gary Kadet go in describing the thinly-disguised Boston S/M scene in general — and some of the East Coast's more visible community leaders and members in particular. After all, when Oliver Cromwell told the court portraitist Robert Walker, to paint him, "Warts and all," Walker did not then take

it upon himself to portray the Lord Protector of England as one large wart and nothing more. Kadet has a knack for painting warts. Many scene people have recognized themselves as characters in *D/s*. Some of us are mentioned without comment — used simply as background characters. Others have taken profound offense at the author's blunt, unflinching, and highly judgmental descriptions of their fictionalized alter-egos.

His epigrammatic judgment-passing blends the sublimely uncritical self-assurance of a Salinger, the witty, catty bitchery worthy of a Capote or a Maupin with a succinct and highly readable style that is all his own.

But anyone hoping for the first in-depth satire, farce or lampoon of scene society, foibles and scandals will be profoundly disappointed. Kadet is not Moliere, Voltaire ... nor yet Swift, or even DeSade. For all their superficial accuracy, Kadet's observations are little more than personal judgments about personalities, made by his first-person narrator/protagonist according to standards we are welcome to guess at and then wholeheartedly embrace. They are based less on characters' actions within the plot, than on Kadet/Patetic's forceful expression of his pre-formed opinions about the individuals in question.

SS&C-BDSM/Leather/Fetish folkways, customs and philosophy are sketchily alluded to and not really explored ... the treatment of scene politics overlooks the principle movers and shakers and the issues they fight over. Still, the descrip-



tions of our technical practices, costuming and gear are concise and quite accurate. Most importantly, (since this is a book most likely to be read by people who are *not* BDSM devotees,) there is at least realistic and positive portrayal of the non-injurious limits of S/M play and the use of negotiation and safewords.

Part of the problem is that Kadet's observations, although superficial, are, at times, astonishingly precise where details are concerned and not exactly untrue in the general sense. His central observation is that the S/Mers of his acquaintance are either young, callow, shallow, clueless, and irrelevant to both this book and the world at large ... or they are over-age, over-weight, intellectually and spiritually mediocre leftovers from the pseudo-Hippy and recreational Swinger subcultures.

Personally, "I resemble that remark" myself, and I am in fact mentioned in *D/s* by my scene name, profession and city of origin. But, as a fat old dude from the "Woodstock generation," who has worn out a few pairs of walking boots at civil rights and anti-war rallies and enjoyed a clusterfuck or two along the way ... I now prefer to think of myself as "corpulent" rather than "disgustingly obese," for one thing ... and I prefer to regard my politics as having been, perhaps, quixotic — but not obviously silly, stupid and ridiculous. But I got off easy! I was merely alluded to, with no exploration of my appearance or judgments passed on my character.

Others are handled less gently. There is one particular highly visible member of the Boston community who is immediately recognizable as author, publisher, organizer, retailer and giver of parties, who has been singled out for what seems, at first reading, to be simple scurrilous vilification. But a critical examination of what is said about his character reveals that all that is "wrong" with him is that he is sexually active although no longer young ... not slender, unwrinkled or handsome — and, worst of all, people enjoy his parties! In fact, it is the lack of physical perfection that seems to be the principle fault for which author Kadet excoriates the S/M community as a whole — along with our tendency to reward social climbing mediocrities with prominence and adulation ... a practice unheard of in bowling leagues, civic associations and the entertainment industry — Not! But most importantly, we grow old, get fat and dress badly and unoriginally — in black!

In fairness to the author, it is necessary to say that if there is a central thought or underlying philosophy powering *D/s*, it is the statement, "No one is any damn good ... except maybe me — and I'm nothing to boast about either." If the BDSM scene is shown in a less than flattering light ... mainstream romance, courtship and marriage come off even worse — "love" itself is explicitly equated with death! Writers, especially newspaper writers and editors are characterized as talent-free, cowardly, boss-ingratiating and treacherous as well as being overweight and ugly. Police officers are brutal, corrupt, stupid, lazy, lawless ... and of course overweight, overage, and unappealing — which is to say, "also inferior." If there is any character intended to excite admiration and approval ... including Perry Patetic — I was unable to locate him or her.

In spite of it all, Gary Kadet has an undeniable talent as an observer and a prose stylist. Perhaps he owes the S/M Community a second, better, book — one that is *about* us rather than one that *uses* us. ♦

(Mitch Kessler, himself an intrepid reader of fiction, also worked as a reviewer for Doubleday Book Clubs. He is currently the Editor of *The Guardian*.)

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BOOK REVIEW two

The Bullwhip Book

by Andrew Conway

The Greenery Press, San Francisco
102 pages Trade Paperback

Author **Andrew Conway** is, first of all, an accomplished public performer. Currently, the best performers with the bullwhip are not, as in the past, working cowboys or even stunt actors, but “buskers” and jugglers — street entertainers. Mr. Conway is a juggler of some considerable achievement and reputation, but is perhaps more widely known for his stewardship of the Internet’s Bullwhip “FAQ” at <http://www.bullwhip.org>. Moreover, Conway has not insulated himself from the input and experience of BDSM community long-lash devotees. In fact, it is through Conway that “Bedroom Buckaroos” and “Drugstore Cowboys” are learning about and are perhaps coming to appreciate each other, a little.

Ron Edwards, the dean of Australian whip plaiters, had this to say about *The Bullwhip Book*: “Association member Andrew Conway has written an interesting book of instructions on how to crack a bullwhip. I said it could not be done but he may have proved me wrong with this one! A large number of different cracks are described in detail with illustrations showing arm position, etc.” ... which is extremely high praise, from an expert who does not give praise easily.

Another authority we turned to was **Jim Hurlbutt**, an Australian-trained American whipmaker who has made several instructional whipcracking video tapes himself. He also loved *The Bullwhip Book*:

“Andrew Conway has succeeded in what he set out to do, write a book to teach people how to crack whips and to pique their interest in whips and their use. Not only has he done it, but I think he’s done it quite well. I’ve yet to see a simpler explanation of how to crack a whip than Conway’s system of ‘set up, turn, and follow through’ — and when it comes to teaching whipcracking, simpler is better!

“At first glance this explanation is a bit confusing.



But taking another look I found his ‘plane’ concept less confusing than I first thought. One of the most difficult concepts for a beginning whipcracker to grasp is a perspective of where their body is in relation to the lash at all times. Andrew’s plane concept provides a consistent framework for each whipcrack from start to finish. This framework, in turn, helps a student to understand where everything has to be for each crack. I particularly like the use of a troubleshooting (what went wrong?) segment for each whipcrack. The beginner will find this to be a valuable resource.”

From the cowboy point of view, *The Bullwhip Book* is a great success. However, from the BDSM point of view, *The Guardian* has a quibble with this book. To learn anything about using a whip on a person, or indeed to see any hint that this might sometimes be done, one still has to turn to **Robert Dante’s** video, “Bullwhip: The Art of the Single Tail Whip.” Although Conway’s book, published by Greenery Press a “community” publisher, is partially dedicated to **Joe Wheeler**, (possibly the most important scene-specific whipmaker practicing today), and has a secondary Library of Congress category as “erotica,” — the sole connection between “WIIWD” and Conway’s book is a page-long speculation on how to minimize risks should a whip become bloodied, which begins:

“Sometimes a whip may draw blood. I am not aware of any cases of diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis being transmitted by the popper or fall of a whip, but it does not make sense to take chances.”

Does the wording sound familiar? To our knowledge, “sharing bodily fluids” with cows has not been much of a concern among working cowboys (or street performers), so it must have been intended as an acknowledgment of BDSM folk’s concerns. Thanks! On the other hand, we are tickled pink at the thought that any number of vanilla Lash Larue wannabees are going to buy this book, find it useful ... and then encounter the unexpurgated publisher’s list of other Greenery Press offerings in the back — delightful!



Jim Hurlbutt also had some technical insights he wanted to share. In fairness, some of these proceed from the fact that Jim's point of view is formed by the needs of cowboys driving cattle from horseback in the High Range country of the Northwest. These are quite different from the requirements of street performers or BDSMers, and grow out of an entirely different culture than the Mexi-Cali whipcracking tradition that gave us Zorro and Lash Larue. Although some of these observations apply more to whip lore in general than to this book in particular, when an expert of Jim's calibre shares information, the intelligent thing to do is listen and learn! On the topics of "Whip History, Materials and Design" Jim said this:

"It would have been nice if Conway had explained how the different styles of whip are designed for easy cracking: snakewhips using the weight of their lead shot, stockwhips using the leverage of their long handles, and bullwhips using a combination of both. However, it is nice to see someone other than a cowboy acknowledging that bullwhips were designed both for noise and hitting. By design, the bullwhip (both American and Australian styles) is probably the best design of whip for both uses.

"Just recently I was showing my work at Cheyenne Frontier Days, where I was privy to a conversation that shows that different people have different misconceptions about what whips are for. I was approached by a couple of women with a few questions about whips. I had no sooner asked them "how are you doing?" then they asked nearly the same question at exactly the same time. One asked, "You mean you actually **hit people** with these whips?" while the other wanted to know, "You mean you actually make whips to **hit the cows**?" Weren't they both surprised to find out the answer to both their questions was, 'Yes!'

"Anyway, I take a little exception to Conway's comments about handle loops. Historically crops and quirts had wrist loops when used on horseback. To the past- and present-day cowboy, to say that a wrist loop is a bit dangerous is like saying that a bull in a pasture of open heifers is just another male looking for some tail. To be pulled from a saddle at a dead run because you're tied to the whip and the whip snagged in some scrub oak or mountain willow is one of most exciting of the many memorable experiences that make a cowboy's life so darn interesting!

"But Andrew is right on when he talks about

materials. Kangaroo hide *is* the king of all plaiting hides and is worthy of nearly all the accolades foisted upon it. Sadly, cowhide in this country has been given short shrift due to American whipmakers either using split-grain cowhide (*garment leather, ed.*) or inferior tannages of hide such as burgundy latigo (*oiled oaktan leather dyed ed.*) Neither of these are durable. Whips plaited of full grain redhide (*alum tanned cowhide dyed red. ed.*) whitehide (*alum tanned cowhide ed.*), Indian-Tan latigo (oak tanned cowhide, alum retanned, heavily oil and wax "stuffed") or green hide (*rawhide ed.*) are incredibly durable! While they don't handle quite as well as 'roo-hide, they'll take half-again more abuse for half the price. For a beginning whipcracker ... or for people using the whip in extremely abusive conditions such as feedlots or open pasture — a well-built cowhide whip is an excellent choice. In Australia most ringers and jackeroos (*cowboys, ed.*) both past and present have used cowhide whips: greenhide, whitehide, or redhide.

"I braid 'fine' myself, and admire the work of those who do, but I can't agree with the idea that the more strings

a whip has, the more lively and responsive the whip will be. What causes the whip to be lively and responsive has to do with what materials are used in the core and the overlay, and in what standard of craftsmanship and construction is put into the whip. Andrew's recommendation of 8-16 strings providing a good compromise is sound advice. More strings than that and you will receive more artistry and less durability for a much higher price.

"One of the best portions of *The Bullwhip Book* is the 'Caring for Your Whip' section. Personally, I prefer Skidmore's beeswax-based leather dressing but other than that, take Andrew's 'Do's and Don'ts' very, very seriously. If you read them and choose to ignore them, you're abusing your whip and your whip will abuse you: physically, financially and verbally!. Physically when you hit yourself through carelessness, financially because good whips don't come cheap, and verbally by the whipmaker when you tell him/her what you did!

"Unfortunately, there are a number of erroneous ideas that have been put forth by other authors and whipcrackers that he has perpetuated in *The Bullwhip Book*. Many of these wrong ideas have to do with working North American livestock whips: their style, design construction and usage. Many of these ideas are easily found to be dangerous or simply a figment of someone's

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... take Andrew's
'Do's and Don'ts'
very, very
seriously!

imagination when applied to working livestock from the back of a horse. Having grown up on 300,000 acres of Northern Wyoming grassland I speak from experience. However, the 77 pages (out of 102) of text dedicated to the cracking and care of whips is very sound, and I would recommend this book to anyone interested in getting started with whips for most any application. Including yours."❖



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(Anyone can braid a whip. A few can do a proper job making a kangaroo-hide Australian stockwhip and even braid your initials into the handle. Only a very few, and **Jim Hurlbutt** is one of them, who can build a stockwhip, and plait your signature into the grip! Among whipmakers of that quality, I know of only Jim who will teach you to braid a whip and crack it, throw a lariat, or braid a hatband, while housing you, feeding you, and letting you ride the horses ... all for about \$300. per person per day. He spins a pretty good yarn too!

Jim grew up on a ranch where braided horse gear and other bunkhouse handicrafts were daily working tools.

He started plaiting at college, and while stationed in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, he produced his first whip using telephone wire and parachute cord. Though he and his whip never did meet up with Saddam in person, Jim did return in one piece and met Danielle, the Australian woman he would soon marry. During the early years of their marriage, Jim and Danielle moved back to Queensland where Jim seized the opportunity to refine and polish his plaiting skill under the tutelage of some of the finest Plaiters and Whipmakers practicing today — and found his calling in life.

On his return to the States, Jim and Danielle, and their two children, settled in Sheridan, Wyoming which is considered by many to be the Mecca of American leatherworking and the heart of Dude Ranch country. Their company, **Specialty Whips** soon developed a following among working cowboys, feedlot hands, and backyard buckaroos. Soon he was being sought after by collectors and now among what he calls "Bedroom Buckaroos," as well.

In the past several years, there has been a growing enthusiasm for plaiting leather and building single-tail whips as a hobby. The BDSM "craze" deserves some of the credit. There has also been generally wider awareness of this ancient handicraft thanks to movies like "Zorro," "Batman," and "Exit To Eden," and by way of Internet exposure of outstanding braiding artists ... and most particularly the online dedication of Andrew Conway and his **Bullwhip FAQ** and discussion group.

However, actually getting students and the teacher together has proved more difficult than would be first thought. A number of teaching tours by outstanding whipmakers have been proposed and even scheduled, but have not actually occurred.

Jim has solved some of these problems by teaching in his own workshop, as well as at Leathercrafting events and specially arranged workshops. "At home," Jim can accommodate a workshop for two to six people, whether it be for a one-day introduction to braiding, or a three-day mini-course in which students learn how to make a traditional Australian braided hatband and belt, as well as a 12-string Shot-Loaded Kangaroo Hide Quirt. Students can stay in the relative comfort of Jim's bunkhouse and home cooking or rough it in a Trail Camp bivouac presided over by his Dad, a life-long working cowboy and ranch manager.

Jim has been braiding **Single Tail Scene Whips** for **Adam and Gillian's Sensual Whips and Toys** for two years — ever since our previous braider "got religion" and decided that he didn't want "our kind of business." At first, Jim had his reservations as well, but after a couple of long telephone conversations, seeing our catalog and reading a few copies of *The Guardian* he decided to work with us. After a while, he decided that kinky folk didn't seem all that bad, and he now accepts custom commissions from "us" as well as his original following of collectors, performers and working cowhands. *Adam Selene*

When Someone You Love is Kinky

by Dossie Easton and Catherine A. Liszt
Greenery Press, S.F.

Greek," said Pappa Nicholas, "should marry Greek." Then, having regarded his offspring's companion for a minute, he continued, "and Freak should marry Freak." It's a limited point of view. But whomever follows his advice can read *When Someone You Love is Kinky* for pleasure, to support community authors and publishers, and to enhance their sense of personal identity.

When Someone You Love is Kinky is the latest book from the writing team of Dossie Easton and Catherine A. Liszt, the same folks who brought us *The Topping Book*, *The Bottoming Book*, and *The Ethical Slut*. The authors this time have written a book which is supposed to be for our partners rather than for ourselves. "If someone you love has a sexual kink, or if you suspect that she may," they write, "and you want to know more about what that means to her and how you can deal with what it means to you, this book is for you." Unfortunately, what they mean to present as calm, rational understanding discussion comes across as condescension toward everyone involved, and oversimplification of very powerful feelings.

The first half of the book is basically a restatement of all the self-affirming positive messages about the Pansexual Safe Sane Consensual Clean Sober and Self-Actualizing community that we never

seem to tire of sharing with each other. Thereafter each chapter addresses a group of "significant others"... co workers, children, mates, employers, relatives, whose opinion might matter to a Kinky Person.

The best chapter of the book is addressed to mental health providers. It speaks to them in their own

People involved in the commercial sex trade, and their issues are explicitly excluded from ... this book.

language, and provides them with information not found in "The Literature" published ten or 15 years ago, and even an ethical and theoretical context in which to reevaluate any prejudices they may still be harboring against sexual minorities. A "shrink" who has never given serious thought to clients' issues around sadomasochism, polyamory, or bisexuality, might well be set on the right path by this book.

However, the book's limited view of what Kinky sex is and what people feel about it overlooks issues of power dynamics, give and take, or the shared journey between Top and bottom, reducing the BDSM spectrum to simple role play and "sexual spice" among otherwise healthy normal adults.

People involved in the commercial sex trade, and their issues are explicitly *excluded* from consideration in this book. No hustlers, no hookers, no porn actors, authors, or directors, no massagers, strokers, suckers, phone sex opera-

tors, or paid dominatrices need apply! The stated reason is that the authors don't know anything about these trades or the people in them!

When Someone You Love is Kinky almost seems to be saying that non-kinky people will be able to accept kinky folk because kink isn't really all that outside the mainstream, anymore. Vanilla people can be made to understand that there's no such thing as a "dark side" to SM and none of us take this stuff all that seriously, anyway, so there's nothing to be upset about. It's not as if any of our fetishes and aversions were ever in the least neurotic. It's all only an aesthetic option. Or is it a political statement? Whatever!

This disappoints a lot of us and leaves those who are not one of Maslow's elite professional, upwardly mobile, although (mildly) sexually unconventional "self actualizers," thinking: "But where is the thing that I do? They left me out!"

The idea of having a book accessible to just hand off to a partner ("Here, honey, read this and you will understand me better!") is a well-intentioned one. Any number of books, *The Joy of Sex*, *The Story of O*, *Liberating Masturbation*, *My Secret Garden*, etc. have been used as Bibliotherapy. But discussions like these can't be reduced to "just reading." One would hope they will open doors of communication between the affected partners. But what if they don't?

Easton and Liszt seem to assume that a kinky and non-kinky partner will renegotiate their relationship according to *kinky* norms that are secular, hedonistic, relati-

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vist, feminist, pansexual, and above all which accepts polyamory (multiple partners) as a practical solution to diverging sexual interests.

To read *When Someone You Love is Kinky* one might think that kids accept the details of their parent's sexual activity as a matter of course. Someone who didn't know better might also conclude that kids hardly ever "take sides" when parents fight, and are *never* embarrassed when their parents seem

"different" from the other Moms and Dads.

A state of affairs in which the norm becomes the deviation and kinky becomes the norm is delicious to contemplate. It's a great fantasy to imagine straight people (regardless of sexual orientation) having to relate to kinky people on kinky terms. But not only is it dangerously unrealistic for kinky folk to expect that; it is also more than bit insensitive to the "mundies." Their

lifelong values and expectations are supposed to be set aside when told:

I know your feelings are real to you and I respect that, but if you are uncomfortable with my need to be butt-fucked with a dildo after a vigorous spanking, maybe we could start with just the spanking and I could take the dildo need to someone else. What could be fairer than that? After all your discomfort is only patriarchal religious bigotry, and outmoded Victorian morality. Besides your choices boil down to dealing with the needs I never told you before that I had, or ending the relationship right now — *dear*"

That's more than a little dangerous to the kinky person as well. Surprised with those choices, isn't it a bit naive to expect the non-kinky partner *not* to take advantage of the all the support mainstream society provides to the "Betrayed Spouse with the disgustingly Perverted Partner?"

How the kinky partner might go about overcoming that power imbalance, and how to go about doing that without profoundly violating Consensuality, is something this book could have and should have addressed. But assuming that the non-kinky will adjust and adapt after reading a book which tells them to take a deep breath, count to ten, forget all their pre-conceptions about what is clean decent and normal — is just inviting lots of lawyers into your life!

That the authors utterly ignore this very real possibility means this book could be a genuine hazard to someone's health and mental well-being instead of the warm, cuddly book that Easton and Liszt, seem to have wanted to write. ♦

(Justin Sherwood is a subscriber and long-time friend of *The Guardian*.)

I'M WEIRD BUT YOU'RE WEIRDER

HOW DID YOUR PLANNING MEETING FOR THE "KINKY PRIDE/UNITY DAY PARADE" GO?



IT WAS A NIGHTMARE!

First EACH GROUP INSISTED ON LEADING THE PARADE — EXCEPT THE SODOMITES WHO WERE EAGER TO BRING UP THE REAR.

Then, JUST AS WE THOUGHT WE HAD IT, THE SWAPPERS WORRIED AT HAVING THE HARD CORE, WHIP-WIELDING SADISTS BEHIND THEM — AND THE SADISTS BALKED AT HAVING THE FISTERS BEHIND THEM!

THE FOOT FETISHISTS COMPLAINED THE ROUTE WAS TOO LONG FOR THEIR PARTNERS TO WALK IN STILETTO HEELS. SO THE MYSOPHILES OFFERED FREE SNEAKERS — AS LONG AS THEY COULD HAVE THEM BACK AFTER THE PARADE — WHICH SEEMED GENEROUS UNTIL THEY WANTED THEIR PANTIES TOO.

Then THE MOST CONSERVATIVE SPANKING PURISTS TRIED TO HAVE THE GAY LEATHERMEN BANNED FROM THE PARADE ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS — BUT THE LEATHERMEN COUNTERED THAT HALF THE PEDOPHILES WERE CLERGY, AND SO THEY SHOULDN'T MARCH EITHER.

THE PIERCERS TAUNTED THE UROPHILES ABOUT BLOOD SPORTS BEING THICKER THAN WATER SPORTS — AND THE CUTTER/BRANDERS CALLED THE TICKLERS "WUSSIES."

And WHEN THE EXHIBITIONISTS WERE TOLD THAT A CITY ORDINANCE RESTRICTED THEM FROM MARCHING NAKED, SOMEONE THREW A CHAIR!.... THE T.V.'S THREW A TANTRUM! — THE POLICE CAME AND ARRESTED ALMOST EVERYONE! NOW OUR PERMITS BEEN REVOKED AND THE PARADE'S CANCELLED!

—KDPierre

THAT'S TERRIBLE!



YEAH — BUT IT'S OUR FIRST YEAR. NEXT YEARS'LL BE BETTER!

BOOK REVIEW too

Sex Lover's Book of Lists

by David Copeland & Ron Louis
Reward Books, div of Prentiss-Hall
290 pgs, \$12.00 www.phdirect.com

Destined to be a Best Seller, of sorts, the *Sex Lover's Book of Lists* offers almost 300 pages of short lists of middle-brow sexual trivia factoids crammed promiscuously between softcovers by Ron Louis and David Copeland ... described as, "established gurus on the subject of intimacy between the sexes ... authors of *How to Succeed with Women* and *How to Succeed With Men*. This book is positive proof, that with the support of the right publisher, (Prentiss-Hall) a writer can create a saleable product in very little time with almost no work — none of it original! If issued as a CD-ROM, it would be eligible for the coveted "Shovelware of the Year" award.

Nonetheless, this book can still offer a few surprises and illuminations to the most sexually sophisticated reader. One may learn, for example, that dolphins may masturbate on a shark's back ... a porpoise with a purpose! Within its pages readers will find a thoroughly revisionist thumbnail biography of Wilhelm Reich and learn that underground cartoonist R. Crumb's first name was Robert.

There are also tabulations of the penis sizes of various creatures. The average man carries 6", the average Humpback Whale has 10 ft. but the man-sized Orangutan, the House Cat and the Duck are created equal with 1.5" each. There are plenty of surprises in the list of the legal age of consent in the various states of the Union, too. Two states allow intercourse after 14 years of life have elapsed. Eight states (California is one) require a full 18 years to lose Jail Bait Status! But 30 of the 50 think 16 years is adequate. How many hold out for the much quoted "21 years of age." Uh ... none actually. (You can probably win a few "sucker bets" with that one!)

You will also find which states still have Sodo-

Sex Lover's Book of Lists



my laws, which European Nations outlaw prostitution (fewer than you might think) and the phone numbers of the two legal Nevada brothels which offer BDSM/Fetish services.

There is little here to impress or challenge most *Guardian* readers. The less said about lists that deal with "our" community resources and interests, the better. The sins of omission are as striking as they are distressing.

We can at least take some pleasure in realizing that pictures of Handcuffs can now be used to promote such a thoroughly vanilla compilation.

With brief coverage of widely varied topics, *The Sex Lover's Book of Lists* will settle many bets, and provide minute after minute of reading pleasure for even the most scatologically "regular" visitors to your tiled Reading Room. It also makes a hip and groovy gift that is sure to titillate without offending. ♦

• **The Black Book:** Now in its 5th kinky edition. A colossal national directory of sex-related resources! Nothing else like it. \$20 + age statement (\$24 Canada/Mexico, \$28 overseas).

• **Black Sheets:** A humorous, unique magazine of sex and popular culture! Unusual themes: fetishes, sex work, sexual politics, and more. \$6/issue + age stmt. \$20/4 issues. (Add \$2/issue to Can/Mex. \$4/issue overseas.)

• **Hot Off the Net:** Anthology of the Internet's best sex fiction. Witness the online erotic revolution. \$17 + signed age statement.

• **Books on Bisexuality!** We now carry a large selection of popular titles.

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THE
LURE
OF THE

UNDERGROUND

Running a Grass Roots Organization

by Mitch Kessler and Gerrie Blum

Before there was money, there were thieves. As use of money increased, theft became both easier and more profitable. It was largely to thwart thievery that treasuries and treasurers were devised. The owners of treasuries came to divide the functions of guarding, using, and accounting for the contents of their treasuries.

Today, LeatherFolk seem to be an exception to this rule. Individually, LeatherPersons manage and account for their personal finances as well as members of any other subculture. However, it is in the management of common community funds that this Urban Primitive culture sometimes falls short. Generally, one person is selected to receive all revenues, pay all debts, safeguard the remainder, and account for the result. Having been entrusted with this, the individual is thereafter considered *utterly trustworthy* and little or no oversight of the treasurer's activities is provided for. This inviolate personal status survives the individual's term of office. In the not uncommon event that a new treasurer finds discrepancies between what is *supposed* to be in the treasury and what in fact is there, the outgoing treasurer is not punished nor openly criticized.

Explanations for this bizarre collective behavior abound, when denial and confusion can no longer

conceal its existence. But is it less useful to explain or "explain away" the Vanishing Treasury phenomenon than to consider some methods by which it may be minimized:

Stay Poor — Commonly used by small religious and political groups, this strategy has been best articulated by Alcoholics Anonymous. A small group can meet its immediate expenses with immediate contributions from members — in other words by "passing the hat." — and not make financial commitments beyond that level under any circumstances. This system requires little accountability, and almost no accounting. When it fails, virtually no harm is done to the organization as a whole.

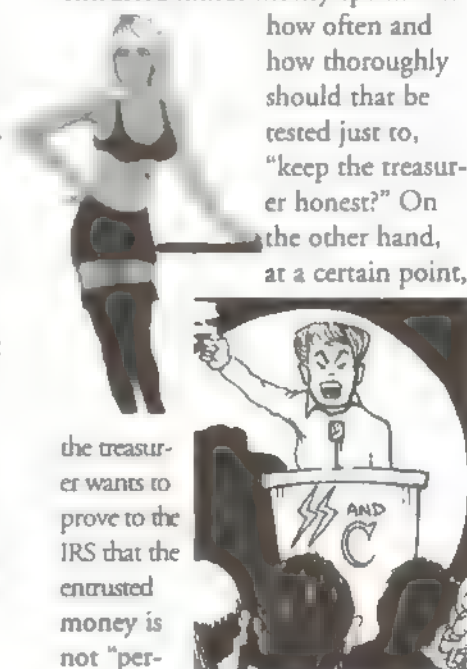
This system works so long as the group can pay its debts within its regular membership meetings. Members who have paid out funds between meetings present receipts and are reimbursed.

At the point that "getting and spending" begins to involve an annoying amount of effort, they need a checking account and someone to make the deposits and pay the bills. The obvious solution is to pick a person you trust, give him or her the money, they pay debts with cash. Even at this very simple level there really needs to be a bit more fiscal formality than before. The same person who takes the collection, should not be the same person to hold the purse and pay the debts. Jesus tried that system in a

group having only 12 full members and another dozen or so Associates. His Treasurer was Judas! Nuff said?

With one person counting a lump sum, and another accounting for smaller sums, bookkeeping enters the picture. — The purse-holder should *not* use the same bank account for personal and organizational funds. This is called "co-mingling" and is *really* not a good practice! There are two issues involved: The group wants to know that the treasurer has spent their money for purposes intended. Money available should equal money entrusted minus money spent. But

how often and how thoroughly should that be tested just to, "keep the treasurer honest?" On the other hand, at a certain point,



the treasurer wants to prove to the IRS that the entrusted money is not "personal income" for the purposes of taxation.

This is when to decide whether to structure as a collective or as a proprietorship. In the latter case one person or a small group actually *owns* the organization, receives all the money, provides all the services. The owner pays taxes on any profit and takes a tax deduction on any loss and the organization survives so long as the owners are satisfied with the arrangement and the members are satisfied with the

owners. Chapters of PEP (People Exchanging Power) and Autumn Season have had success with this system.

A more "member centered" method calls for an organizational checking account and someone to look after it — a treasurer. Unless the group agrees that any surplus in the treasury belongs to the treasurer "for services rendered" — there also needs to be someone to look after the treasurer. This is the point at which most groups decide they are ready for some kind of leadership structure. This is usually a President or Chair who directs the running of meetings, someone to do the job in his/her absence (vice-President, vice-chair or co-chair), a Secretary or Scribe who records meeting activity and a Treasurer to handle the money. Often, the VP confirms that the Treasury is being responsibly looked after. This point is usually reached when there is \$1,000 or more retained in the treasury.

While this is not necessarily the time when Bylaws or incorporation needs to be considered, or should be, they frequently are. When this happens the organization enters its "political" phase, in a process that usually combines the less agreeable elements of warfare and childbirth — except that no one actually **dies!**

Since the original purpose of the exercise was to keep the money in the group's treasury, and nothing more ... a reasonable approach is for the treasurer to simply open a personal checking account used **only** for organizational business. In actual practice balancing that checkbook becomes all the bookkeeping activity necessary to account to the group and to the Tax Collector.

What is necessary ... inconvenient ... untrusting ... disagreeable, but *necessary* — is that the Bank

Statement for the group's checking account be opened and reviewed by someone who is *not* the Treasurer or his/her Significant Other. This is the minimum for accountability. Without it, cooking the books becomes easier than microwave cuisine. How often this needs to be done depends on the group's cash flow ... the size of the transactions — and how many there are. Typically, a minimal cursory review is done monthly but a thorough re-

... simply ...
**separate the finances
of the organization
from the finances of
its Treasurer ...
for Tax purposes.**

view should be done annually.

There are strong arguments for finding the money to employ an *independent* Certified Public Accountant's office do the job. The cost might be several hundred dollars but the job will be done correctly and the result will be trustworthy and acceptable to the taxman. Argument and hard feelings will be almost totally avoided. Outside professional audit is also a powerful deterrent to a light fingered Treasurer who might be tempted to rely on tricky bookkeeping or sympathetic friends to confound a volunteer auditor's efforts.

If the feeling is that independent audit is "too insulting" or "too much trouble" ... it should be done regardless of cost!

The Treasurer's interests also will be protected if the group takes on an official identity recognized by the IRS and the State. If the group remembers that the purpose is still restricted to organizing their finances, as opposed to "Founding

a Great Nation" its collective life does not need to be "filled with lawyers" — or with accountants either. The goal is simply to separate the finances of the organization from the finances of its Treasurer (or officers) for Tax purposes.

Once you have your leadership structure, and your finances under control, a group needs to look at the rest of their reason for being. What does the organization need to survive and grow?

Scene organizations who fail to follow established membership "growth and retention" practices and find their membership numbers dropping — have only to look to local chapters of mainstream organizations for guidance.

Mostly they're organizational implementations of, "Do Unto Others ..." Public Libraries still stock "Running a Successful Organization" -type handbooks and pamphlets. The Rotary, AA, the PTA and similar civic organizations love putting out that stuff. If I remember correctly even NOW, sells a handbook for chapter leaders.

The level of complexity, diversity and political sophistication vary ... but the essential similarities are striking:

A) Sustained Regular Newsletter distribution

1. maintains "the connection" with the membership,
2. stimulates interest in activities, events, projects,
3. Explains and justifies programs, policies, problems,
4. Rewards service with public recognition.

B) Maintain and fund a "Good and Welfare Committee" to

1. provide Newsletter with obituaries, announcements etc.
2. send cards/gifts to ill members
3. make appropriate memorial gestures when a member or spouse of one dies.

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Round Up and Wrap Up of Legal and Community Issues

"Paddleboro" in Massachusetts

Last summer, in Attleboro, MA, a BDSM party was interrupted by uninvited guests ... two members of the local police department! Apparently in the building on another complaint, they entered the premises, found some partially nude men and women "playing" and arrested the host, Ben Davis, on several counts, along with a guest who was charged with assault for using a "weapon" on the butt of another woman. (Allegedly, a wooden spoon.) Davis was arraigned on 13 charges: operating a business without a license, keeping a house of prostitution, possession of an item of "self-abuse," (*a dildo! ed*) assault and battery of a police officer, accessory before the fact of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and eight counts of possession of a dangerous weapon.

The Discovery period has been continued. There will be a hearing when it is concluded. The next court date for Davis is the 20th of November at which time motions will be made by the defense. From that point the case will be brought to trial depending on the decisions made. Our sources expect that now that the local election has passed, all the charges, with the exception of operating an illegal business will be dismissed.

TES in New York

The latest dust-up in the nation's oldest and most

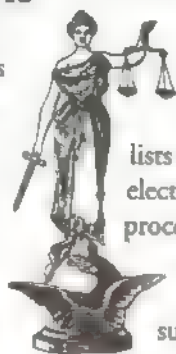
prestigious BDSM organization suggests several strong reasons why "501" Tax Exempt status may not always be the best choice of corporate structure for Scene groups wanting to keep their private business "private."

As in many other states, NY Corporation Law imposes "sunshine law" requirements on its not-for-profit corporations. One of these stipulates that, along with financial reports, tax returns and minutes of meetings, **any member** can, as a matter of course, demand certified membership lists to determine voter eligibility in organizational elections ... thereby assuring integrity of the electoral process. Certification by a corporate officer permits removal of members' addresses, phone numbers and even last names from this list. But, when such documents are withheld, the statute provides only one remedy: **the member must sue** the organization to compel compliance with the statute!

In our Community, one tried-and-true response to lawsuits by members is to accuse the Plaintiff of intending to "Out everybody!" In addition to mounting a vigorous court defense, costing "several tens of thousands of dollars," according to one source, TES's Directors, have also added force to their "intent-to-out" accusation by formally expelling the Plaintiff and his girlfriend from TES — and effectively making them *personae non gratae* in much of the NY Scene.

Flingless in Pennsylvania

Regrettably due to illness, Carter Stevens had to cancel plans for the semi-annual S&M News' Fall Fling in the Poconos, scheduled for the weekend of Nov. 20. The good news is that he is making a speedy recovery and expects to be back in action by Spring Fling time!



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Book Banning in Boston?

Dear Sir Adam and Ms. Gillian,

It has been brought to my attention that a certain author of some note has been implying that you were selling his book at the Boston Fetish Flea. If this is the case, my personal choice is to never do business with you again, and to urge others to follow suit. Please confirm or deny. I will wait until I hear back from you before voicing my concerns to others.

(/ Ian *(/*

You need to understand that we put a couple of copies of **Gary Kader's D/s** on our table exactly because ... *and only because* ... we had been subjected to an unremitting, anonymous week-long barrage of largely unsupported and unconvincing accusations against the author personally — calling for a boycott of a book due to its "offensive" content!

The *SandMUtopian Guardian*, has a long-standing reputation for its Free Speech and Anti-Censorship positions. Since we took over the magazine we have also tended to take the side of the underdog whom no one else would defend: Oliver Jovanovic, Duncan McKenzie, and Chris Scanlon; as well as many more of the more popular Scene Causes, from The Houghtons to the Club X Six.

We do not participate in Witch Hunts!

Censorship, book burning, character assassination, guilt-by-association and the rest of the McCarthy-like techniques of Political Control are inherently repugnant to us. Therefore, we took it as our moral obligation to reach out to the author and offer him table space.

There have been enough attempts by conservative moralists, to silence "our" authors, from De Sade, to Burroughs, to Foucault — not to mention all the pseudonymous

authors of our "one-hand reading." Had the self-appointed arbiters of Right and Virtue had their way, there would be no Clies, Greenery or Mystic Rose Press ... no *Guardian*, *Leather Journal*, *Checkmate*, or *DungeonMaster* magazine — and publications like *Scarlet Leather* and the *RCDC Newsletter* would have neither advertisers, nor access to the postal service.

In fact, had the Supreme Court *not* found First Amendment Rights more important than their own avowed moral and political beliefs ... the Communications Decency Act would *not* have been overturned — and the Internet would look a whole lot different than it does today. There would certainly be no "fetish" porn sites and no "alt.sex.____" newsgroups — no BDSM "Community" websites like Leather Online and the Deviate's Dictionary.

That some of "our" people would seek to suppress a book, *any* book, because some of its contents offend someone's sensibilities — borders on "disgusting." Nor is repression of a book, based on the alleged character of the author all that much better.

Pick an author, photographer, publisher, pro Domme or Club Leader at random ... and there's someone to swear and declare how "dangerous," or "criminal", or "not One Of Us" he or she is.

The accusation ... that Gary was responsible for the Attleboro raid ... was debunked by Susan Wright of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom who put her name to the statement that "no evidence exists" to support that contention — and her opinion was included in Cecilia Tan's e-mail to Vendors just days prior to the Fetish Flea Market.

Whatever else is wrong with the author — he was probably *not*

"The Rat of Attleboro."

On the other hand, I have an anonymous accuser with an undisclosed agenda saying otherwise. For all I know *you* might be the Mayor of Everett or one of his lackeys, hoping to sow dissension in the Boston BDSM Community.

So, if on this basis you choose to launch an online assault on *my* business ventures or personal standing — there is nothing I can do to stop it. "Banned In Boston" has always been a seal of approval among advocates of Free Speech and a Free Press.

Almost certainly it will be another demonstration that "there is no such thing as *bad* publicity."

And in the end, the attempt will probably reflect more discredit on you than on me.

Indeed, were it not for the anti-Gary vendetta, I would never have considered having *D/s* for sale at my table. Because of it, I had no choice except to stock the book!❖

(For a review of *D/s*, see pg 38. For *Paddleboro*, see pg 46 and their site at: Paddleboro.com)

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The Future of Leather

by Joseph Bean

Executive Director of the Leather Archives & Museum

Excerpted from his keynote address at the Great Lakes Leather Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, on Sept. 30, 2000.

If you think of leather/SM/fetish as a way of being, as a way your life can be ordered and made sensible, you may find my message valuable. If, on the other hand, you see SM as just a way to get off, leather as mostly a way to be fashionable, and fetishes as the inexplicable kinks found among "crazies," you may save yourself the bother of listening ...

Just as the marvels of the 20th Century had been evolving outside the Ozarks when I was born, the leather/SM world had been evolving as a universe next door to my own yes-sir/anything-you-say-sir world since the mid-'50s, but I knew nothing of it. Where the men in my world worked with *only* those they knew well, the new-to-me leathermen **played** with anyone who would agree. We had been devoted to the "brotherhood" "making the scene," and had done "sessions"; they were loners, doing scenes and giving names to everything in sight: Bottom, Top, boy, slave, Master and player were all new words to me, things I barely recognized. Toys was the hard one ... or maybe it was "play." Whatever, it was a new world that opened to me

I found a place for myself in the leather/SM world too. I became a contributor to the changes which, later and now, I would consider **Big Mistakes!**

In the '80s people began to have "parties" — not sessions, musters, or gatherings. And the names that had cropped up here and there, especially "boy" as the name for a

male bottom, became widely used.

I really distrusted this evolving world where the bottoms admitted out loud they *wanted* to hurt and everyone thought of SM as "fun"!

The next world-transmuting shift was the infamous advent of "gay cancer, GRID, AIDS," which was very much the property and even the "fault" of SM men in the beginning. I absolutely *didn't* want to adjust to this, but friends began dying, and I learned to live with it in a way, while fighting the whole thing in whatever ways I could.

The third revolutionary change in SM took a while for us to give it a name. It even took a while to notice *what* we were doing, and we *were* doing it. In time, we called it "pansexuality and inclusiveness," and watched as it became the greatest of the 1980s earthquakes! Language is only language but the expanded population was *not* just language and it had its epicenter at the heart of SM. Maybe I was finally grieving for the lost SM world I had loved, or I was crazy, or maybe I was doing the right thing. I honestly don't know.

Pansexuality and the coincident population explosion didn't just mean doing SM with women and heterosexuals in the room, it also meant classes and conferences on a major scale and it involved ideas I had tried not to think about. Things like legal rights had meant nothing when we all accepted that being arrested from time to time was, "just the price of being different."

With pansexuality and AIDS

and the language shifts came also the questions about our SM predecessors and the history of such institutions as chaps, bike clubs and leather bars. They brought us the idea of the **Old Guard**, maybe because the founders were dying, maybe because their language was disappearing, maybe because the new people of *all* genders and sexualities who were coming in ever-increasing numbers needed a way to trivialize their forebears who would otherwise seem *too* great and be *too* important and would have *too* much authority. But, [it] was a giant step toward today.

You may have had experiences like mine in the '60-'80s, or not. Most of you will recognize the next decade, the '90s. And however alike or different your experience and mine were before, we became entwined in the '90s. I edited magazines [including *The Guardian*, ed.] and wrote articles that some of you read, always pushing you and pulling myself toward today. I did art and illustration and classes and demonstrations, editorials and speeches. All of them committed to making the new, more free, more open world of SM as accessible as possible. I apologize if you see that as a Mistake, but I remind you that you as readers, event package buyers, art buyers and the rest, made choices and gave feedback that encouraged and directed me and the others on my side of things. We were involved, you and I, through the '90s, feeding and guiding each other. And I have now come to believe *we were very much in the wrong!*

I'm sorry for the part I played in confirming and creating an SM world where newcomers are abused and under-socialized; where the spirit of camaraderie is subordinated to the glee of party-time; where the life of the human spirit is often no less crushed in the dungeon than it

is in the cubicle-farm office.

We're on a dead-end here. The problem is *not* the language. The problem is certainly not AIDS, although there is nothing I want more than I want my dear friends and slaveboys back. The problem is not pansexuality or the population explosion, because there certainly and genuinely is strength in unity so long as it has a broad embrace and heart enough to countenance *real* diversity. The problem is simpler. What we have lost, what we have to regain if we are to be anything more than a lightning bolt in the occasional TV sit-com is easily named, but not easily understood.

I say that leather is a "gypsy thing." If it has grown roots, they should be harvested. If it has settled on a foundation, that should be broken and abandoned. What we should be longing for is, the passion, the darkness, the guilt, the fear, and the uncertainty which are done away with as leather and SM become a respectable, monitored subculture. If we are no longer rebels, so be it, but don't let us stop tasting what is forbidden and daring what is impossible and repeating what is unsavory. If we are no longer criminals, so be it, but let us place before all other values the pursuit of self-transforma-

tion which can include sex and sexuality only if they are bliss-inclined which means they have to be aimed at the darkness.

More true and more important than anything else I can say is this to the new and the young: Don't adjust. Bend not the slightest bit. Find what answers the yearning of your own passion and accept nothing else. Nothing less!

The **Future of Leather** is either something new, invented and ruled by the young, or it is nothing of leather/SM at all. To go on along the path of least passion as we are today is to become dull, to say the least. But, to stand aside and allow the newcomers and the young to create around you a new SM world may well rekindle in you the very instincts and urges that drew you into leather to begin with.

I say "you" not "us," because I believe that I have another leather destiny. I won't be one of the people populating parties or playing for fun. I won't continue to adjust. But I *will* do the things I believe will give the greatest liberty to the creators of the next and forward-looking world of leather/SM, so long as no one asks me for the kind of instructions or advice that usually misleads the young hotheads into the paths of

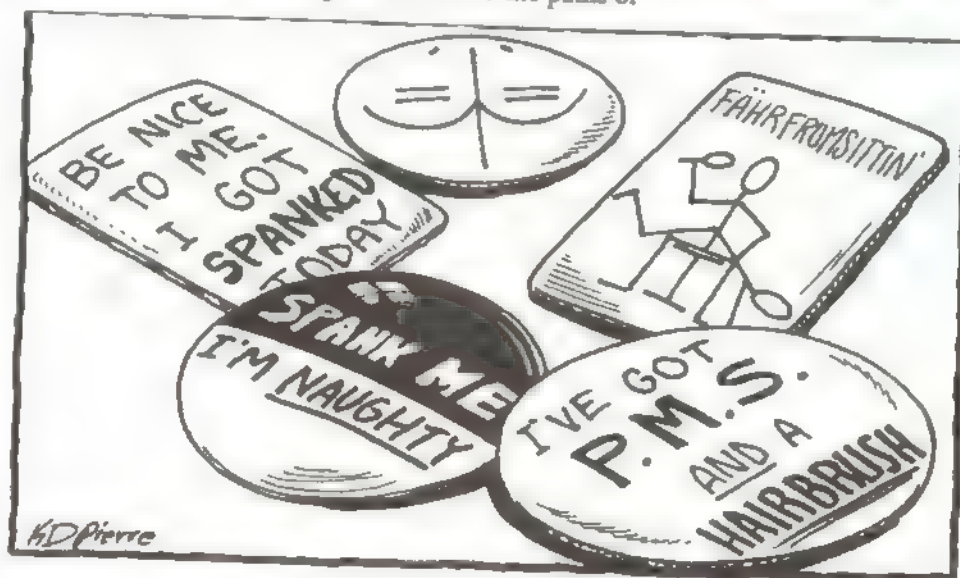
the old farts.

I come from a time and world in which leathersex was a life apart ... not a thing apart from life. It's all very well to have a museum and lobbyists and committees and conferences, but the time has come to ask what we are lobbying for the right to do, and is it worth that?

To ask what is the future of the historic reality recorded in the **Leather Archives & Museum** and is there something important that is different now ... not better, not even intentionally changed — just lost? I cannot tell you what will be the future of leather, but I ask you to ask yourselves as you make and live in it: Don't you want lives in leather to be something more?

Bring back the darkness. Bring back the passion, and give leather-folk hereafter something to live for, something to anticipate and fearfully shiver about. Only then will the museums, art shows, legal battles and conferences be justified. ♦

(Joseph Bean is one of the best known and most respected members of the leadership cadre of the leather/SM communities. From 1990 to '92 he was the Managing Editor of The Guardian. Read more about him in Issue #30, and the full speech is online at: <http://home.mac.com/ptwebsite/Articles/FutureOfLeather.html>)



The SandM Utopian Guardian #39

Woof! — the “human canine”

by Michael Masterson

(Excerpted from an article first published in *Out! In Leather* and printed with permission of the author.)

When I came out in the leather scene in Melbourne, Australia, one of my mentors was Master T who had a dog called Christmas. I had visited Master T for a session, and appreciated the imagination and expertise this mature man possessed and the fantastic scenes he could create.

On one occasion, as soon as I entered his house I was told that I was to be his “other dog,” and that my name was to be, “Shortarse.”

“Strip!” came the magic word which always signalled the beginning of a scene with the Master.

I did as I was ordered.

“Kneel!” I felt a leather dog collar being buckled around my neck, and realized it probably belonged on Christmas.

“Stay!” I heard water running elsewhere in the house. A leash was attached to my collar and I was led into the bathroom and into the tub, which was steaming with running hot water and an acrid but interesting odor of Phenyl as I got in. I was being given a dog bath!

The shock of being a dog was amazing and I am sure the smile of surprise and excitement that spread across my face was something to behold! It was really easy to get into the role with this marvelous experienced Master whom I knew I could trust implicitly.

I was washed down with a dog soap, rinsed and ordered out onto the floor where I was rubbed dry, roughly, with a coarse towel. My head was spinning with anticipation as the leash was re-attached and I was lead on all fours into another room, and again commanded to “Stay!” My leash was padlocked around a post. You can guess what state my dick was in throughout the whole adventure.

Meanwhile, something was going on in the next room. I could hear utensils and sauce pans and smell cooking. “Yum,” I thought. “Dinner time!” I lay on my dog rug with head down, enjoying one of



the biggest head trips I have ever had. Eventually it was chow time. A dog dish, with two circular bowls was placed in the floor near the table. One contained water. I saw the can of dog food opened and slurped into the second bowl. “You’ve got to be kidding!” I thought. “I can’t eat that! I’ll get sick!”

“Eat!” was the next command. My moment of decision had arrived. I hesitated. Then I proceeded to stick my snout into the dish and do as ordered. Yuk! — it was far from enjoyable. Tasty, yes, but in a very unpleasant sort of way. And messy!. Food seemed to go everywhere as well as into my mouth. I slurped a bit of water to dilute the taste, then decided I had little choice but to get into the food — or stop the scene and bail out — always an option.

While I was going through my meal ordeal, Master T and a Master, friend were enjoying conversation and a delicious hot roast beef dinner at the table. I of course, was on the floor where I belonged. I was apparently ignored, although I was told later that they were continually fighting a major battle to avoid bursting into uproarious laughter!

I learned later that this was a crucial test in my slave training. As was usual with Master, all was not as it seemed. He had actually taken the label off a dog food can and

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placed it on a can of horrible vegetarian "meat" chunks in gravy, so I was actually eating food suitable for human consumption! My fear of getting sick on dog food was all in my mind and part of the trip, tho I am sure the taste and smell were much the same. [I have since used this trick when testing a man who said he wanted to be my slave.]

After I finished my meal, I was ordered under the table where I was fed a few tidbits of their glorious

Master. I was able to see a few things out of the corners of my eyes, and there were certainly a few stares in my direction. When we returned to the room, I was left chained outside.

"Stay!" I felt the fear of exposure and the sadness of being separated from my Master, who gave me the impression that he had gone off to play with humans. It was a really interesting experience, down on all fours, chained as a dog in the corridor. The club was not overcrowded and I was able to study the footsteps by sound and occasionally appearance. The longer I stayed the more I felt empowered as a dog and proud of my performance, which I knew pleased my Master. How the evening ended is for your imagination.

Variations

Being a dogs slave can vary from a one-time encounter to a weekend of fun and games, or a more lengthy relationship. A variation is to play as co-equal dogs in a pack, which might involve a playful fight to see who comes out as Top Dog and thus controls the action for the night. Or just a joyous romp to-

gether as dogs do. Fucking doggie style assumes much more meaning and feeling in this situation.

What does it take?

The Master needs imagination and creativity to plan and carry out the scene. A certain amount of gear is needed, the more authentically doggy the better. It need not be expensive. Improvise as you would with a canine dog. You need a bottom who trusts you and shares your love of adventure. You both need a foundation of experience in BDSM.

The scene I described contained Bondage - both physical and mental, a lot of mental Discipline and some physical and various SM acts. It was also very erotic.

You don't need a special place to play doggie. Almost anywhere you would take a canine dog you can take your dogboy. Sort of! You can train and play with your human dog at home, in a club, or in a park or outdoors setting ... if it can be private — or at least sympathetic. Imagine what you could do in a barn! You lucky dogs, you!

Where to get ideas

The best video I have seen on this topic is "Slaves in the Dog Cage," from All Worlds video. I got my copy from Larry Townsend

continued on pg 58



roast dinner. It was then that I was introduced to "Daddy's Bone."

After dinner, I was taught to walk at heel, fetch, roll over, and various other doggy-things. All in good fun. Then I was loaded into the back of Master T's semi-open backed Land Rover, where I lay down (dressed) surrounded by his tools and spare tire. I was driven across two suburbs to a destination about which I was not consulted. [You don't ask the dog's permission to take him somewhere now, do you?]

We entered an old, sleazy warehouse with rough cubicles and packing cases strewn around. Just the place for some public dog training! Master T had booked a private room and it was there that I stripped and a muzzle was placed over my head, in addition to the collar and leash. I was lead around following my



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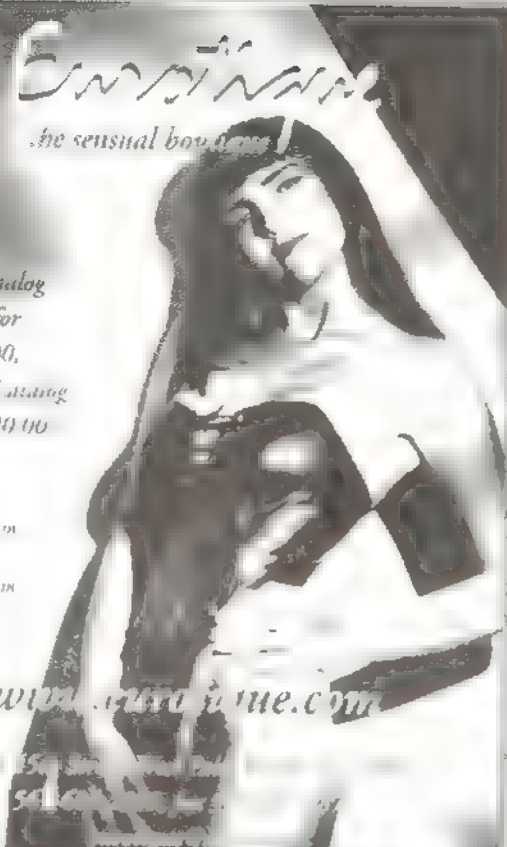
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Woof!

continued from pg 57

at www.larrytownsend.com or write to him at: PO Box 10449, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-3449.

This article was inspired by an email from Master Michael at www.Leaner Dog.com. It is a new site and the email stirred up the memories I described here. I'm glad I clicked on their site. It has lots of useful information about terminology, activities, training, gear, even personal ads, and links to other sites that share the male leather human doggy world. The section called "Poop Scoop" contains "miscellaneous shit of interest to dogs."

The oldest site and organization on the net is www.TheDogHouse.org run by Top Dog whom I have known to be honest, competent and experienced. The site is huge, complex but still interesting, although hard to read. Membership is required to access some sections and an extensive questionnaire may serve as a barrier for some.

Some of the doggy necessities suggested at the Dog House are knee pads, an ID tag with pooch's name on it, a real dog bed (get the largest, Great Dane size) and some toys, both chewy and squeaky. ❖

(Michael Masterson has written for *The Guardian* on "Tattooing Down Under" and is the proprietor of *Eagle Leather* in Melbourne. He is also an active leader and participant in the Australian Leather Scene and helped organize several large leather events. He can be reached at www.eagleleather.com)

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Ed. Note: Also see Issue #28 of *The Guardian* for Kim Boo's article, "Training a Recalcitrant Puppy."

See page 22 of this issue for one of the several genital restraint devices that doggies should have, the CB 2000. Other devices can be found in the issues discussing "Male Genitorture," *Guardians* #33 and 34 and in the centerfold of Chastity Devices in #37. Adapting canine kennels is in Issue #21 and a ready-made one from BJL is shown in #26.

Grass Roots

continued from pg 51

C) Use an Award Committee

1. to "Thank" members and Officers for their services. Remember, if they don't get the cash, they need the credit!
2. to encourage others to serve.

D) Hold periodic fundraisers for the benefit of one's own organization or cause.

E) Don't wait for volunteers to volunteer ... ask! Recruit talent, "one-on-one"

F) Guard Against "Burnout"

1. recruit "task-partners"
2. train successors *before* they are needed.

G) Personalize membership renewal outreach techniques ... avoid overly obvious form letter formats.

H) Advertise: Publically, Economically, Effectively

1. Budget and strategize *before* committing funds.
2. Evaluate results objectively
3. Repeat what works ... abandon what drains.

I) Assure Informational Continuity — Keep and Safeguard all Written Records

1. share sources and resources
2. document policies and procedures. Keep a book of them for reference.
3. archive correspondence, newsletters, pamphlets, etc.)

J) Avoid "giving away the store" (to other organizations) without considering:

1. Is the alliance philosophically appropriate?
2. Do you need the time, money or personnel for your own programs?
3. When will the support or resources be reciprocated or returned? ♦

(Mitch Kessler got his experience in stewardship as a Captain in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, as his synagogue, as part of student government at his Junior High school, and was first President of the Metro NY Chapter of the NLA. Gerrie Blum learned about grass roots organizations primarily from the good ol' NYS and National PTA and was the first Secretary of the Metro New York Chapter of the NLA)

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by Mitch Kessler

The Hanged Man

Mock executions are as much a tool of the professional torturer's trade as cattle prods, dry submarines, and soldering irons. The business of being brought, ritualistically, to the point of death ... prepared and arranged for the final moment ... and then *not* killed — has a profound effect on many prisoners. If it does not break the victim's resistance after a few tries, pain, drugs and isolation are still options.

When practiced *outside* Third World prisons, the Hanged Man derives a great deal of his pleasure from the ritualistic preparation of the "death scene" and from contemplating his ostensibly immediate "immortality." We know this, both from reading monographs by Hanged Men, and by examining death scenes. We also know that some of the hanged are inexperienced young men with bad information who hope for a sexual thrill by means of asphyxia. Some are "suicide dramas" by men and women who subconsciously court the accident that will end their lives without damning their souls to perpetual torment — or at least without the necessity of actively deciding to end their lives at a particular moment. The hope of survival makes the suicide possible. Some are extremely skilled stunt athletes who perform for themselves. For some, the actual "step off" and neck suspension is rarely if ever attempted. For others it *is* attempted — only once! Some actually succeed in achieving sexual release, do it repeatedly and live to write about it — a thing that came as a great surprise to this researcher!

No Noose is a Good Noose

The whole point of the Hangman's Noose is that it pulls tight and does *not* loosen no matter how much the victim bounces around. It's also thought to promote fracture of the cervical vertebrae and severing of the spinal column, although the noose was used long before the neck-breaking "long drop" became standard practice. Even a simple loop noose can jam in the closed position. In theory the "honda" at the end of a cowboy's lariat will loosen as soon as the pressure on it is released. Don't count on it ... and besides — lariats are hard and scratchy and not at all what anyone wants squeezing their neck.

For Safer Breath Play, Never Play Alone

The single greatest cause of Autoerotic Asphyxiation Accident is solo play. What would have been a momentary loss of consciousness at the hands of a Top, becomes a fatal auto-strangulation in a very few minutes.

Learn together and escalate intensity *slowly*. Breath play, especially with strangulation involved, always carries with it an element of unpredictability. The difference in reaction from person to person is greater than the difference in the same person's reactions at different times. However, a partner well acquainted with one's usual reactions is in a better position to react instantly to any surprises than can a stranger.

A Sober Top is a Safer Top

Such safety as the Bottom has, comes from the strict attention the Top pays to subtle fleeting physical cues as well as to adherence to common sense safe and sane procedures. Getting lost

in one's own pleasure as well as imbibing reality-altering chemicals are both really bad ideas.

Provide for a non-verbal escape cue, of course, but a good Breath Control Top will often be aware that there is trouble seconds before the partner does.

Don't Move

The more cooperative the Bottom is, the freer the Top is to pay attention to work precisely and pay attention to what needs attention. When air begins to run out, a certain amount of involuntary thrashing around is going to occur. The better the Bottom can control



this, the better the Top can perceive increased movement as a sign of trouble.

Don't Jerk, Don't Shake

A strangler who wants to kill does not wait for asphyxiation to do its work. Instead he or she will violently shake the victim in a front-to-back motion. Depending on factors of luck, strength and technique this further disorients the victim, preventing effective resistance ... can drive the thumbs into the windpipe, breaking it ... rattle the brain around inside the skull, producing internal bleeding, swelling or both — and even dislocate cervical vertebrae.

Beware of Thumbs

"Spreading the load" minimizes the probability of damage to the windpipe. Concentrating it increases the power and the depth of the choking pressure. Thumbs digging into the larynx are really dangerous. Don't!

Don't Hang Yourself

Don't ask anyone else to hang you either. If Grand Guignol and Theatre of Death are your "thing" ... enjoy the ritual and the drama —, but bring the curtain down and take your bow *before* the noose tightens.

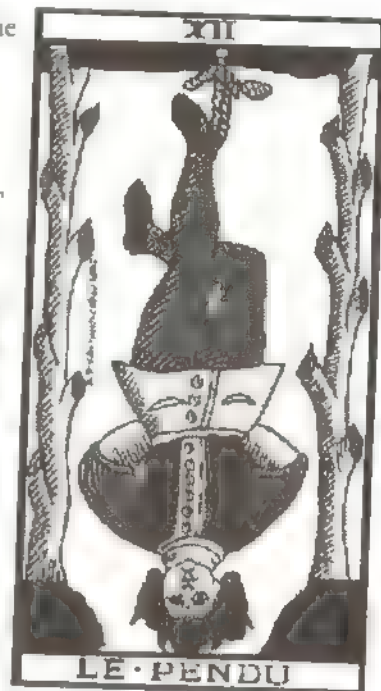
There is a great deal of testimony that people can and do survive hanging by the neck. What they do has a lot common with surviving Flying Trapeze with no net. Although careful and knowledgeable preparation plays a part, as does maintaining low body weight, great muscular neck strength and the *zero-drop* technique play an important part in pulling off this trick, a lot of the credit must go to the "catcher" who in this case acts as the only margin of safety ... cutting the "flyer" down as soon as their struggles stop. Some Hanged Men perform this death-defying feat many times in the course of a long and happy life ... until they don't! The small single fatal mistake is not absolutely inevitable — it is only highly probable.



Feet on the Ground — Always!

The alternative "hanging" technique is really a variation on Garrorage. The rope used has a "running noose" or "honda" for immediate release of the neck pressure, and is lead through a well-greased free running overhead pulley. The rope is always "handed" it is never tied to a stationary object. The "hangman" pulls on the rope, most usually until the "victim" is standing on tip toes. When the victim's legs begin to tire the strangulation begins.

Actually lifting the victim from the ground is outstandingly, stupidly, risky and in fact, rarely attempted. The potential for a broken neck is simply too great for all but a few "magicians" who are totally confident in their strength and self control ... and for those who are unconsciously courting death by "sub-intentional suicide." Even professional human rights violators find this technique so unpredictable in the long run as to be counter-productive for purposes of effective torture. Any degree of "drop" at all, even a fraction of an inch, increases the risk incalculably.



Don't Even *Think* About Playing Alone!

OK, if you're reasonably young and healthy and want to try to hold your breath until you pass out or hyperventilate until you're happy — you'll almost certainly get away with it. But if there are ropes, tubs of water, plastic bags, or other impediments to breathing that may need to be released in a hurry, be sure someone is there to do it who is paying strict attention to the possibility that they may be needed.

One final note:

In the months ahead, as we plan the future of *The Guardian*, we anticipate publishing some of the extra material online that did not find its way into these articles. Visit us on the web at www.aswgt.com from time to time to check on our progress. ♦

ADAM AND GILLIAN'S CORNER

Floppy Brother?

We just bought the **Big Brother** strap and tried it out. Call me a paddle slut, but we were looking for something harder (more painful). My beloved's wrist got sore and she got "spankers shoulder." She also had a hard time controlling it, since it's sort of floppy. We're worried that it will get more floppy with use. Do you think that a "Big Brother" of doubled leather would be easier to use and more "effective"? Would too much of the stroke be dissipated in the doubled strap? I love the idea of a "punishment strap" but we wanted something that is severe & easier to use.

Ian K by email

Adam replies:

You're quite right ... it *will* get more limber with use. The doubled-strap designs are easier to control, but they *do* convert a lot of their energy to noise. The doubled designs are less powerful, and a while a thinner strap, such as the **Schoolmistress™**, is more

powerful. It is also harder to use, at least in terms of hitting where you aim.

Buggy Whips

Do you carry anything similar to a buggy whip? We ordered a shortened version of your **Davo™** (nice) - but we want a little more sting.

Kate, via email

Gillian responds:

We make **Our Buggy Whip™** with a nylon outer shell and a hard core. It has a quirt-like end on it. Or we can put a nylon "popper" similar to a single tail whip for more sting (but it won't actually "crack"). It is usually 54" long overall, but we can make it shorter if you like. (Adam says we can make it as short as 30 or 36" and not lose its effectiveness.)

What about Canes?

We have been very happy with your products, your help, and your advice. So I'm asking for more help!

We are considering a cane. We have never used an implement like this. How severe is a cane? What kinds do you have or recommend. We want it for disciplinary purposes. We would also appreciate advice on how to use it and what positions work best.

Gillian answers:

Rattan is the classic cane material, a natural fiber that we do in **Plain**, **SchoolMaster** (crook-handle) or **Modern** (wrapped handle) styles. If you are unfamiliar with its use, use the GLM skiing method (graduated length). Start short and you can always get a longer one later. Best value would be a 27" Plain cane and light or medium weight.

(In Issue #19 there is an article by Adam on "Canes and Caning.")

For disciplinary purposes, six on the butt, or two or three on the backs of the calves work wonders! Of course you can extend the ordeal by doing sets of six without allowing a break during, but only between, sets.

A lightweight cane may cause temporary welts, but should do little bruising, unless laid on (too) heavily.

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Another kind of rod

I am interested in buying a Horse Whip "Whale Bone Whip" of 24" length. Quantity required is three pieces and it has to be delivered to Singapore

Sir Adam replied:

The first thing required here is a good description of what a "Whale Bone Whip" is supposed to be. Anything we might provide will be an approximation, since whale products in today's market will either be extremely valuable antiques — or contraband goods from Japan. Understand that Whalebone is not bone at all. It is a hairy material from a whale's mouth. When alive, the whale uses it to filter krill and plankton, from the water. When dried it was usually used as a core for long "driving whips" used in carriages and buggies, and for short riding crops used when riding on horseback. When erotic writers mention a "whale-bone whip" they are usually talking about a slender, flexible crop with no leather "flap" at the end. These were not very useful for managing a horse, but were usually carried as a decorative accessory to a fashionable young lady's riding outfit.

With overtones of wealth, status, leisure, and athletic young women, naturally this item developed a great deal of fetish value, especially among the 19th century French, whose erotic literature sometimes cited this object as a typical instrument of discipline in aristocratic boarding schools for somewhat younger ladies. It was definitely used by somewhat older ladies, of a somewhat different class, who were paid to "chastise" somewhat older gentlemen of the higher classes. Very much resembling the last two feet of a black fiberglass fishing rod they make

thin welts, and break skin easily.

Unsolicited Testimonial

I want to take this opportunity to thank you both for doing what you do. We have an increasing selection of your toys in our toy box and have found them to be of exceptional quality and value. This has greatly enhanced our play time and strengthened our relationship.

It is of inestimable value to be able to order something with absolute confidence that the item will be of highest quality, thoughtful construction, and fully guaranteed to satisfy. I know of no other mail order company that can compare. We have, in the past, run into items that were merely props, not really usable for other than role-playing, which is a very small part of what we do. Everything you make and sell is fully functional and always lives up to the description.

Whenever I have called, I have spoken to someone who had extensive knowledge of your products and obvious experience with them. I have never felt nervous about asking questions and getting advice, although I am generally very shy about this aspect of my life.

I hope you can understand what you have done for us and thousands of other players across the country.

Steven

It broke the first time ...!

We had a return of a cane recently, and sent the following reply by mail:

Let me congratulate you on a powerful arm and awesome acceleration technique ... you have succeeded in breaking one of the finest, most flexible pieces of rattan cane to come out of this shop in many a month.

In addition to the shattered tip, you may have noticed the sharp bend

continued on pg 56

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Letters to A & G

continued from pg 63

at the front of the handle at the place your thumb was resting during the stroke. It is this detail that attests to the speed as well as the heaviness of the blow ... and suggests that the cane was **not** struck sharply over a narrow hard object such as the back of a chair or the edge of a table, as is usually the case in this kind of breakage.

The thinner diameter you have ordered for the replacement will give you a bit more flex and reduce the tip mass, which should help to preserve the cane.

You might also consider using rattan canes for warm up and ramp-down work, and use unbreakable plastics for the serious punishments. It's worth remembering that these 1/4 to 3/8" diameter canes were used by elderly and unathletic schoolmasters on boys of tender years. Breaking one of these canes during a pun-

ishment enhanced the reputation of both the Master and the miscreant in the eyes of the rest of the boys, but it also limited the maximum amount of physical damage that could result from a caning with rattan. Lower-class schoolboys and Naval Midshipmen were beaten with walking sticks which, while perhaps made of rattan, were much thicker than schoolmasters' canes, and capable of inflicting

serious injury. Today, in Singapore, corporal punishment canes 1/2" in diameter have their tips soaked in water prior to use. This is done to prevent splitting of the cane's tip, as well as to impart a more vicious "flailing" action.

You can also consider buying plain canes by the dozen and make the breakage part of the fun. ♦

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IMHO

continued from pg 66

realize how ugly they are becoming. This doesn't just happen at social gatherings ... this happens in everyday D/s relationships. How do I know? Keep reading...

I have found a man whom I consider a possible life partner. As of now I am in Service Training and live with Him so I may serve Him on a twenty-four hour basis. A short time ago I brought up the idea of having a "Mommy" join the house, since we live juvenilism on a day-to-day basis as well. The woman who was chosen as "Mommy" couldn't handle that my Master had final say no matter what. Of course I know that there were other circumstances that she found uncomfortable, but why? Personally, I

thought the relationship would be very satisfying. She was bisexual, I was bisexual, but the fact that I was half her age ruined it. She told Him on one occasion, after I had a beating from Him, that I was "unattractive", and that she "couldn't handle that the welts on my bottom were made by Him." I am now struggling with myself to say something, I know that the house could have been wonderful with three — it still is with just Master and me.

Am I supposed to take this personally? Or is it that other people are just uncomfortable and I should be more understanding?

Either way I become resentful because I am always the one who has to back off and make excuses

for people's disgusting and rude behavior. I am tired of trying to convince myself time after time that people I encounter have good motives and Dominants that do try to talk to me value me more than a possible good time in bed.

I am not a "homewrecker," nor do I have aspirations to be one. I want a relationship of my own, where I have a Master and I am collared by this wonderful man who is worthy of my submission. I am tired of feeling so isolated and being made to feel so uncomfortable that I want to vomit. I am an intelligent woman and would appreciate it if people didn't make estimates of my I.Q. even before I open my mouth. Even though I come off as having the looks of a sex toy, I still know what a golden shower is and yes even more importantly, I know what it means to be Owned. I do not, nor will I ever claim to know and to have experienced everything, but I am *not* a novice. ♦

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Ageism in the Scene — from the Other Side

I may be young, but I am not a kid!

by Any

My name is Any and I am a twenty-year old, bisexual submissive. I have had a love for this lifestyle since the tender age of fourteen. I still can pass for that age.

Most people may think this is yet another boring tale of yet another "Malibu Barbie" crying and whimpering about her terrible life. The truth is... it isn't.

I am here to tell a story that will destroy the stereotype of the glamour that comes along with being a "Cracker Jacks Box prize." **The bottom line is that there is no glamour,** just a whopping pile of lies, misconceptions, and backstabbing. I'm the one who is getting her heart broken and being lied to.

My experiences in the public scene are: if you're younger and skinnier than the majority, prepare to be excluded. It drains you and even scars you emotionally when you have to explain your motives continuously to people who, despite the constant explaining, still won't believe you.

Being the "youngest" in any clique is difficult. It's even harder when the rest of the people you are socializing with are twice your age!

Whenever I try to talk to an interesting Dominant at a BDSM social, a flock of "forty-something" submissives run to us like vultures. To make things worse they stare at me and make me feel as though I should be home playing with my dolls. I am tired of the struggle I have to endure in the social order. **I am a serious player and want to be taken seriously.** Not many people believe I could have had the

opportunities I did to live the life I have. For instance, I am fed up with having to go into detail with my scene "friends" because *they* don't believe that a twenty-year-old could possibly have been a live-in slave.

As if my age wasn't enough, I also have another strike against me. I was born with a severe blood disorder. Explaining this to people I play with isn't exactly pleasant. A lot of the time they think I am lying and really have AIDS. My dis-

**I think it should be considered
a blessing to discover the
power of your sexuality.
I also think that the younger
it happens, the better
for the person.**

ease is hereditary. It is also terminal. The life expectancy for it is less than half of normal, which means I may die in my twenties or early thirties. I am not scared of death. I am scared of not being with someone when I die. I have decided that I am going to live my life to the fullest, no matter how long it may be. I refuse to let this "condition" hang over my head, as if I were waiting for death to knock on my door. Because of this, I would never ask a person I play with to go easier on me, nor would I expect them to.

Last year I was with a Dominant who knew of my illness. He said he couldn't be with me because he didn't know when he would have to say good-bye. That hurt me. But at the same time he loved

being with someone so young. A double-edged sword!

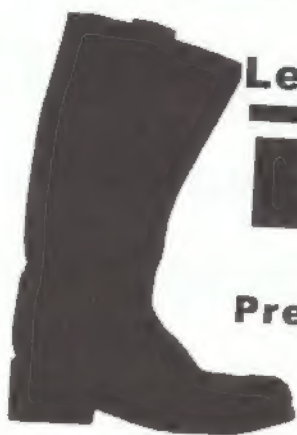
In the same year I attended a munch where I was followed into the ladies room after dinner. When I approached the submissive who followed me, her response was, "Well dear, to be honest, we thought you were bulimic and were running into the bathroom to purge." That, ladies and gentlemen, is how my community welcomes new members.

I could understand the resentment in seeing someone new join if this were a grief counselling center or group therapy for those who lost relatives due to suicide ... but it isn't. I am not poking fun at those services. But no one is suffering here. Elders should be happy that younger generations are realizing their love for this lifestyle and that there isn't such a struggle with identity because they are understanding what and who they are at younger ages. I think it should be considered a blessing to discover the power of your sexuality. I also think that the younger it happens, the better for the person. Who would want to go through half their life not knowing that what they desire is normal and that there are other people who think and act just like them.

That just isn't the case in today's BDSM community for me. I have been turned away from many clubs because I wasn't twenty-one. I shouldn't have to be of legal age for alcohol when it isn't even being served! In most areas it is against the law to have alcohol served at a "sex club," which nowadays is what our clubs are referred to by the common, vanilla Joe.

The reason behind me wanting to tell my story is so those who are guilty of acting this way can

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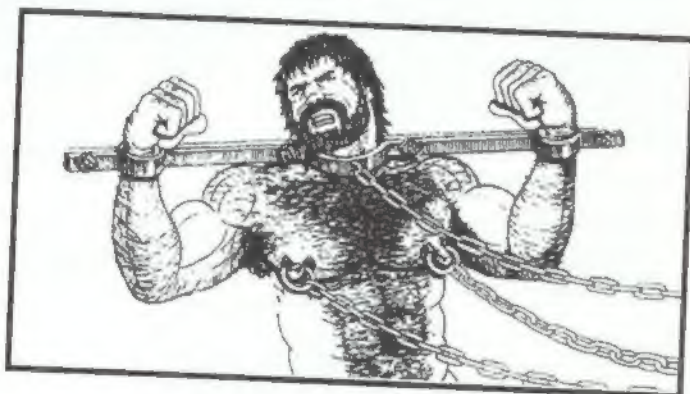
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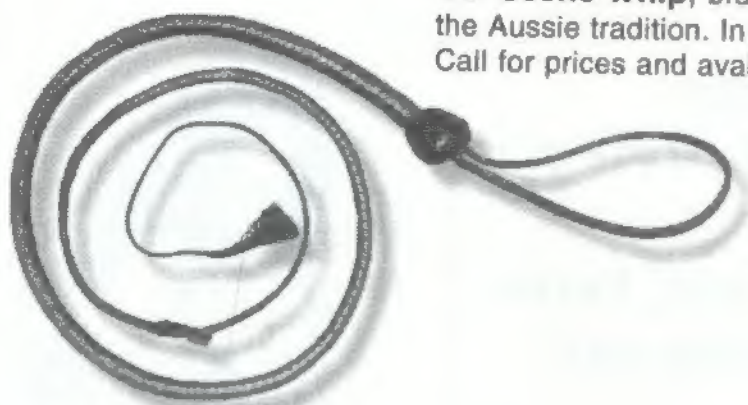
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